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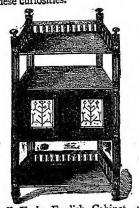
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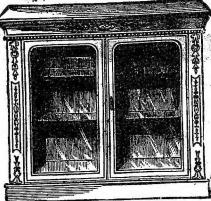
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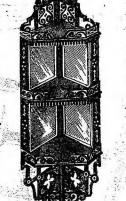
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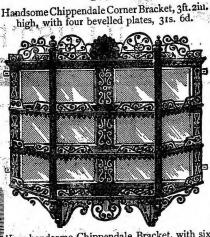
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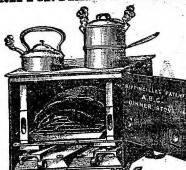
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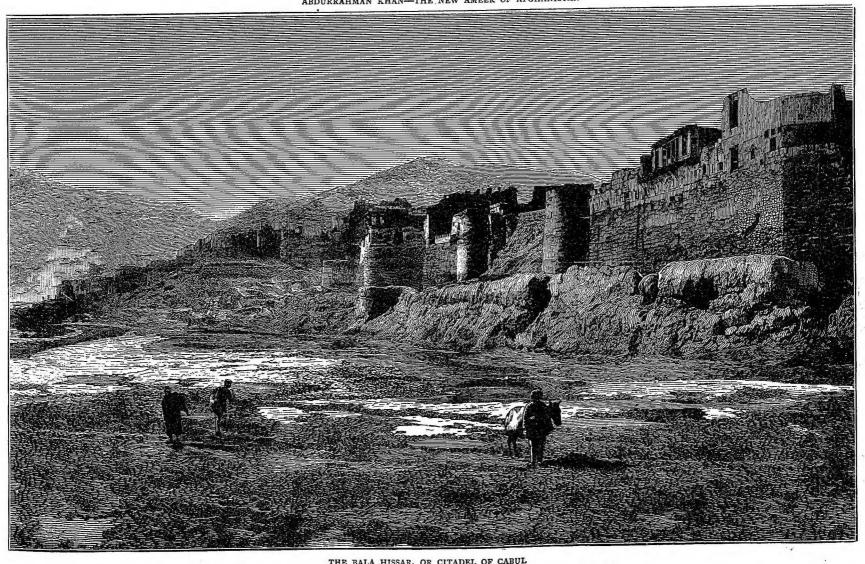
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THE BALA HISSAR, OR CITADEL OF CABUL THE DISASTER IN AFGHANISTAN

THE AFGHAN DISASTER.—Later and fuller details of the conflict at Khushk-i-Nakhud have somewhat modified the impression made by the terrible word "annihilation," which was by many persons not unnaturally interpreted almost in its literal sense. We now know that there was a hotly-contested fight lasting over several hours, and that, lamentable as the losses were, half the defeated brigade reached Candahar. Still the destruction of life was almost unprecedentedly heavy, judging by the records of modern warfare, for this fight was quite unlike Isandlwhana, where a small body of Europeans, unprovided with the usual South African laager, were literally overwhelmed by a multitudinous horde of savages. At Khushk-i-Nakhud General Burrows, rashly, as the event proved, offered battle, quitting a defensive position for that purpose. The result of the action showed that both in men and guns he was overmatched, but, even if he was correctly informed of the strength of Ayoob Khan's force, he may not have considered himself overmatched. Remembering the records of Indian battles, a General with 2,400 men, a large proportion of whom were Europeans, may have considered himself on a par with a purely Asiatic enemy five times as numerous. According to present accounts, which, however, may possibly be modified hereafter, the Bombay Sepoys were unable to withstand the impetuous charge of the Ghazis, and thus threw the 66th into hopeless confusion. The defeat gradually became a rout, but it would seem that our unfortunate fellows did not fall so much beneath the swords of the pursuing foe as from the effects of thirst and fatigue. Some of the missing may, perhaps, have since come in, but it is more likely that those who sank from exhaustion were murdered by the surrounding villagers, and it is well known that the Afghans do not make prisoners. The miseries of that flight to Candahar, when many of the fugitives, at the hottest season of the year, went for four-and-twenty hours without a drop of water, will probably long be remembered. The most satisfactory feature of this disastrous business at present seems to be that Ayoob Khan either could not or would not follow up his success. If he had shown some of the vigour and promptitude of a really great general, he might have seriously imperilled our hold of the country. It is to be hoped that by this time reinforcements have poured in, and that Ayoob has lost his opportunity without hope of recovering it.

THE DISTURBANCE BILL.—It was expected that the Irish Disturbance Bill would be rejected by the Lords, but no one anticipated that it would be rejected by so overwhelming a majority. Among the Liberals who voted against it were Lord Sherbrooke and Lord Hatherley, both of whom must have been exceedingly unwilling to do anything likely to damage the Government. Even those peers who supported the measure seemed for the most part to do so in a half-hearted manner. The chief anxiety of Lord Derby, for instance, was that the operation of the Bill should be limited as much as possible in regard both to space and time; and he indicated more effectively than anybody else the incompetency of a County Court judge to deal with such delicate and complicated questions. Of course the Liberal press deplore the decision of the Upper House, but there is no evidence that it is regretted by the Liberal party as a whole. A large number of the Liberal members of the House of Commons either voted against the Bill or did not vote at all; and it is understood that many others supported Mr. Gladstone solely because they shrank from breaking up the party. The truth seems to be that the Government introduced the scheme without fully appreciating its real character. They did not see that it would inflict gross injustice on the landlords, and that it would injure even the peasantry by exciting hopes that no Ministry could ever attempt to gratify. All this came out clearly in the course of the discussion, and there can be no doubt that it made the Bill unpopular in the country as well as in Parliament. The incident will be of advantage to Ministers if it teaches them to act in future with greater caution, but in the mean time it has done much harm in Ireland. It has fostered a dangerous agitation, and created a sense of insecurity which must tend to drive capital from the country.

MR. GLADSTONE'S ILLNESS.—When a man has rivals and enemies, as almost all men of prominent position have -especially such a combative personage as Mr. Gladstoneering exercises such a mollifying effect on these aforesaid enemies and rivals. The suspicion that life may be about to close affects not merely the sufferer but also the onlookers with a sense of the actual pettiness of all these mundane affairs concerning which we make so much strife and debate. They are forcibly reminded, too, hale as they may seem now, that a day will come when they also must leave all this world's aims and ambitions. Hence a sentiment of charity and large-heartedness supervenes. "We both were striving to serve our country, though by different means. Perhaps neither of us was so right or so wrong as we each supposed." Such may, perhaps, have been the thought of an ex-Premier calling to inquire after the health of the Premier in possession; such sentiments probably induced an ex-Cabinet

Minister to abstain from censuring the policy of the Government while its chief lay ill. In the mean time a practical lesson may be learnt from Mr. Gladstone's illness. to a stupid adherence to rules which have become anachronistic in modern life, we cast an unnecessary amount of work on our Cabinet Ministers. For example, by 4 P.M. they have already done as much work in their offices as would satisfy most people, but nevertheless they must sit in a row on the Treasury Bench for, perhaps, three mortal hours hearing and answering questions. Much time would be saved if these answers were printed, as the editor of one of those omniscient weekly papers prints his answers to his correspondents. The result is that the real business of the night is not reached until an hour when elderly gentlemen who value their health ought to be in bed. Much improvement in this respect might be effected if the House would disregard precedent, and proceed to remodel its regulations in accordance with the altered conditions of modern existence.

REPUBLICANISM IN FRANCE. — The result of the departmental elections in France is exceedingly encouraging to the Republicans. The present Government was supposed to have alarmed a great many people by banishing the Jesuits and welcoming back the Communists, but the elections certainly do not indicate that the alarm was very profound. The reactionary parties have lost hundreds of seats, and even in Ajaccio Prince Napoleon did not secure more than 809 votes against 1,717 for the Republican candidate. The Legitimists are simply "nowhere," and the Orleanists are in much the same plight. Never since the Revolution has any set of institutions in France obtained so striking a mark of public confidence, and the chances are that in the legislative elections of next year the expression of public opinion will be equally decisive. This brilliant success is, of course, partly due to the fact that a large number of people inevitably vote for what seems to be the winning side. We must, however, also take into account the character of the Republic as it is now established. That mistakes have been committed M. Gambetta himself would grant; but, on the whole, the triumphant party has acted with calmness and moderation. Not the faintest encouragement has been given to Socialist schemes; and, except in the measures relating to the amnesty and the Religious Orders, the extreme Radicals have been unable to make their influence seriously felt. The peasantry and the bourgeoisie, therefore, have been reassured; and, as long as M. Gambetta is openly opposed to the Irreconcileables, they will probably continue to support him. The only disquieting circumstance is that so much has depended on his personal discretion. Republicans would look forward with more confidence if they were certain that even without his influence their leaders would pursue a conciliatory policy.

SIR BARTLE FRERE.--In these days, when persons holding posts of authority are too apt to be molluscous weakkneed creatures, it is rather refreshing to come across a man possessing such force of character that he has positively retained office for several years under two successive Ministries, both of whom, though diametrically opposed to each other, have concurred in disapproving his proceedings. The late South African High Commissioner is practically the author both of the Afghan and the Zulu wars. Neither of these wars can be said to have accomplished the objects for which they were avowedly undertaken. So far from raising an impregnable barrier against Russian ambition, we have converted the mass of the Afghan people into bitter enemies, and, after our recent disaster, it will probably be a long time before we dare definitively to withdraw within our frontiers. In South Africa we have crushed the Zulus, but we have a Transvaal full of discontented Dutchmen, and a Basuto difficulty on hand. The failure of his principal enterprises, therefore, makes Sir Bartle Frere's "staying" powers all the more remarkable, and he would possibly have stayed on to this hour but that the Radicals, as opposed to the Moderate Liberals, were bent on decapitating so distinguished a Jingo. Hence, doubtless, the hesitations and delays of the Government, which give his final dismissal rather an ungracious aspect. The plea that he was kept at the Cape to see if the South African colonies could not be persuaded to confederate seems rather a lame one. Bartle Frere had, no doubt, done all he could do in this direction long since. Our own belief is that South Africans will not confederate so long as they can get British redcoats to help them in their native wars. If we withdraw our aid, necessity will perhaps force them into union, though in that case, considering the numerous anti-British elements, union may expand into independence. Meanwhile, remembering how rare statesmanlike qualities are, one is tempted to regret, although not approving of all Sir Bartle Frere has done, that his energies cannot be utilised in some other field.

THE PROSPECT IN THE EAST.—The new Identic Note has been submitted to the Porte, which for once seems to be sincerely anxious to comply with the wishes of the Powers. So many troubles lie before Turkey in her relations to Greece and Bulgaria that she would be heartily glad to get rid of the Montenegrin difficulty. It does not, however, appear that the Albanians intend to submit to her will. They detest the idea of handing over territory to a Prince whom they despise; and if the naval demonstration comes off, the Powers may find that the enemy with which they have to

deal is not the dilatory Ottoman Government, but a genuine nationality bent on asserting its claims. Russia would apparently be much disappointed if the Albanians yielded; for she has been helping Montenegro to prepare for a determined struggle, and Servia is at present being encouraged to become Montenegro's ally. If war breaks out, it is too probable that there will be a rising on behalf of the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia; and the Greeks may determine to take their "cause" in their own hands, trusting to the help of England in the event of their being defeated. Turkey sees all these contingencies, and makes ready for a conflict in which it may be necessary to fight for her very existence. Even yet the crash which is sure to come sooner or later may be postponed; but the tendency of events certainly does not support a very hopeful view. Above all, the renewed activity of Russia is ominous. She does not conceal that her ultimate aim is the break-up of the Turkish Empire, and there are many indications that she thinks the conditions of the present time unusually favourable to her

Aug. 7, 1880

CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. -- Except on the Pacific Coast there are few Chinamen in the United States, and for this reason the subject is not regarded as one of urgent interest in other parts of the country. It may be presumed, therefore, that the declarations which have been put forth concerning the Chinese difficulty both by the Republican and the Democratic candidates for the Presidency are mainly intended to influence the Californian vote. Even in California, however, as our readers are aware, there are two parties on the Chinese question. In a country where "helps" are apt to be scarce and uppish, employers of labour welcome a population which in domestic service displays the valuable qualities of industry and civility; nor can the community at large be indifferent to the advantages of a body of immigrants who provide fish and vegetables for their dinner tables, and who execute the rough work of making their railway lines. But the wage-earning classes of whites detest the Chinese, regarding them, and not unjustly, as formidable rivals; and, as the white labourers have votes while the Chinese have none, California, politically, may be regarded as anti-Chinese. The Chinese Government are willing to abrogate the Burlingame Treaty, but they very fairly argue that if Chinamen are to be shut out of America, they must shut Americans out of China. The sympathies of most people concerning this matter (in regions where the Chinaman is practically non-existent) will be with the Chinese; but it is only fair to remember on the other hand that if the Chinese were to emigrate in as large proportions as the Irish have emigrated (and no one can be sure that they may not hereafter desire to do so), their multitudes would swamp the white population of America. It is plain, therefore, that this is one of those questions concerning which there is a good deal to be said on both sides.

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE LORDS. -- When Mr. Gladstone was last in power threats were continually being addressed to the Upper House. It frequently opposed the Prime Minister's schemes, and on every occasion on which it did so it was warned that the country would not much longer tolerate its obstinacy. These threats ceased during Lord Beaconsfield's term of office, but they are once more beginning to be heard. Enthusiastic Radicals are disgusted that a small privileged order should have the power to thwart what they call the national will; and it is suggested that the time has come, or at any rate must soon come, for putting an end to an antiquated system. These severe politicians do not reflect that the national will is never really thwarted by the Lords. Every great question on which the country has plainly made up its mind has hitherto been settled in exact accordance with popular demands, and there is no reason to suppose that there will be any change in this respect in future. The Upper House does, however, resist many proposals while it is uncertain whether they have the approval of a majority of the community; and it is by no means certain that this is a disadvantage. It gives the nation time, as has often been pointed out, to mature its ideas; and the success of the great Liberal measures of the present century is, perhaps, in some measure due to the elaborate discussions which the resistance of the Peers rendered necessary. Besides this consideration, impatient Radicals should observe that even if the House of Lords were abolished they would not get rid of the influence of great families. Nearly all the Members of the Upper House would obtain seats in a National Assembly; and they would probably be able to exercise much more power there than they can in a Chamber of their own.

NOTICE.—With this Number is issued an EXTRA FOUR-PAGE SUPPLEMENT, entitled "A STRUGGLE AGAINST DESPERATE ODDS."—The Half Sheet this week, though delivered in the middle of the Paper, must be placed for binding between pages 140 and 149.

NOTICE.—A DOUBLE FINE ART SUPPLEMENT will be published with the next week's issue. It will consist of the following pictures from the Exhibition of the Royal Academy: "THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME," by CHARLES GREEN (double-page engraving), "I'M GOING A-MILKING," by EDWARD H. FAHEY, and "REFLECTIONS," by EMILY MARY OSBORN. This Supplement has been postponed in consequence of the publication of our Afghar. Subplement.

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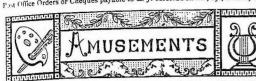
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The Service of Express Trains from London (St. Pancras) to Scotland from July 21st will be as follows:

						DOWN TRAINS.—WEEKDAYS.							SUN.		
										DA	C	BE	E		
LONDON	100								a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.		
LONDON Edinburgh	125	La	ncras)					dep.	5.15	10.35	8.0	9.15	9.15		
Glasgow		,						arr.	4.32	8.45	6.0	7.45	7.45		
Greenock	+							25	4.50	8.55	_		7.45		
Perth .						4		37	5.55	9.42	_	7.45 8.18	7.45 8.18		
Aberdeen								11	9.20	11.40	8.30	10.55	10.55		
INVERN	i	4.						11	10.12	3.20	12.40	2.15	2.15		
A-Th-	1	٠.						11	_	8.50	2.45	6.25	6.25		
A-The Inverness	1 rai	11 1	caving	31	. P	icras	at	to.35 a.	m. on Sa	turdays	has no c	onnecti	on with		
Inverness Saturday	on S	un	day m	Will	ings.	13-	-11	e I rai	n leavin	g St. P.	ancras a	t 0.15 1	o.m. on		
mediday 1	mont	e 1	L. W. 15. 5						1	711		C TO JILL			

Saturday nights has no connection with Greenock or Trains norm of connection with Greenock or Trains norm of connection with Greenock or Trains norm of Connection Stunday mornings

C.—Fullman Sleeping Car from St. Pancras to Perth. D.—Pullman Sleeping Cars from St. Fancras to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

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For further particulars see Time Tables.

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For particulars, see Time Tables and Programmes, issued by the Company.

Dorby, Abril, 1880.

General Manager.

Dorby, April, 1880. General Manager. GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—The Express Route to SCOTLAND.—EXPRESS TRAIN SERVICE FOR AUGUST, 1886. SUNDAYS. A

| No. | No.

London: King's Cross Station, July, 1880.

CREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—EXPRESS and FAST TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN LONDON and SCARBOROUGH, &c., from AUGUST 1, 1880, and until further notice.

FROM LONDON.

WEEKDAYS.

SUNDAYS

London: King's Cross Station, July, 1880.

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#### AFGIIANISTAN

#### ABDURRAHMAN KHAN

ABDURRAHMAN KHAN, who has been officially recognised as the new Ameer of Cabul, is a grandson of Dost Mahomed, being the el lest son of his eldest son, Afzul Khan. As, however, Eastern rulers are not wont to be guided by the law of primogeniture in their choice of a successor, but elect their favourite son as their heir. Dost Mahomed nominated the late Shere Ali, who accordingly ascended the throne on his father's death in 1863. At that time Azul Khan was Governor of Balkh, and together with his brother Azim Khan and his son Abdurrahman, headed an insurrection, and drove Shere Ali from Cabul. Afzul was then acknowledged Ameer. Azim Khan and his son Abdurrahman, headed an insurrection, and drove Shere Ali from Cabul. Afzul was then acknowledged Ameer, his success being in a great measure due to the military prowess of Abdurrahman, who had defeated Shere Ali's troops on several occasions, and noteworthily at Shaikpore. Afzul Khan died in 1867, was succeeded by Azim Khan, while Abdurrahman retired to Balkh. Shere Ali, however, in his turn raised an army, and, defeating both the new Ameer and Abdurrahman, occupied Cabul, and was acknowledged Ameer. Abdurrahman fled to Bokhara, and took refuge with his father-in-law, the Ameer, whose daughter he had married, and from that time until the close of last year he remained there under Russian protection. Upon the deposition of Yakoob Khan, however, he crossed the Russian frontier, and organising a small force in Turkestan, has been slowly advancing towards Cabul. As he was known to be a man of considerable intelligence and force of character, and as Afghanistan eminently needs such a man for its ruler, the Indian Government opened negotiaintelligence and force of character, and as Afghanistan eminently needs such a man for its ruler, the Indian Government opened negotiations with him, which resulted in our recognising his claims to the throne, and he was publicly acknowledged Ameer in a Durbar held in Cabul on the 22nd ult. He is described by those who have seen him as a fine handsome man, about forty years of age, and one of the emissaries sent to treat with him describes him as "by far the most civilised, courteous, and intelligent Afghan he has ever met." The correspondent of The Times also, telegraphing on Tuesday, states that he is "far better looking than his photograph would make him appear. He has a very pleasant smile, and a frank manner."—Our portrait is from a reproduction of a photograph taken in Turkestan.

#### THE BALA HISSAR

TWO of our illustrations, which are from photographs by Mr. John Burke, represent views of the Bala Hissar, the citadel, or rather fortified Palace of Cabul. The Bala Hissar really is a complete town in itself, as the walls enclose nearly a fourth part of the city. Here is situated the Ameer's Palace, and here also stood the British Residency, which was stormed and burnt by the Cabul rebels in September last, when occupied by the late Sir Louis Cavagnari. While, however, the Palace was fortified, the Residency was absolutely defenceless, and fell an easy prey to the Afghan assailants. The Bala Hissar subsequently was temporarily occupied by Sir Frederick Roberts, but we believe that the principal fortifications have now been destroyed by the British authorities.

#### THE SHERPIR

This view is also from a photograph by Mr. John Burke, and depicts the cantonments outside Cabul, where the greater portion of our troops, under Sir Frederick Roberts, have been quartered since our occupation of Cabul, and where they successfully withstood the onslaught of the Afghans last December. The cantonments are laid out in a spacious rectangle, being backed by the lofty Bemaru hills, and surrounded on three sides by a solid brick wall, pierced by gates at intervals. They are sufficiently capacious to accommodate in barracks alone peoply 6,000 Europeans, while a very large native army racks alone nearly 6,000 Europeans, while a very large native army could encamp in the open air. The cantonments were constructed by Shere Ali in order to overawe the city of Cabul.

#### THE MUSTAFI HABIBOOLA KHAN AT MURREE, PUNJAB

"THIS large military station," writes Brigade-Surgeon Frederick W. Moore, to whom we are indebted for the sketch, "was enlivened a few days since by the arrival of the Mustafi Habiboola Khan. This notorious Afghan councillor was the Wuzeer, or Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the Ameers Shere Ali and Yakoob Khan. His long knowledge of and intercourse with the chieftains of the tribes of Afghanistan would have made him a valuable acquisition to either side during the war. With his natural astuteness, seeing that the Afghan cause was lost, he came over to the British, and he was at once chosen as the most powerful and able mediator between us and the Aighan tribes. The political authorities on various occasions gave him large sums of money to smooth the way with these turbulent chiefs, more especially when he was negotiating with Mahomed Jan. The Mustafi was unsuccessful in bringing him to terms, though he did influence on our behalf some of the petty chieftains, and for a time seemed quite a zealous partisan. Ultimately, however, the innate Afghan treachery got the better of him, and, while under the garb of friend-ship he was taking our money, he was intriguing with Mahomed Jan against us. He was suspected, however, before he had wrought much mischief, and at last letters were found passing between him and the enemy, and he was immediately arrested and sent to India as a prisoner. His advanced age, namely, sixty or seventy years, and his decrepit state, probably saved him from a worse fate. In the order which sent him to these hills it was said that he was sent for the benefit of his health, and that he was to be treated with consideration. His son, twenty-three years of age, was allowed to for the benefit of his health, and that he was to be treated with consideration. His son, twenty-three years of age, was allowed to accompany him, along with a few Afghan servants. Captain Gaisford, of the Frontier Force, 4th N.I., was placed in immediate charge of him, together with two or three native policemen. He lives in a very good house, ironically named Friendship Hall, and goes out once a day, generally in the evening, in a jampan, a sedan chair carried by four coolies. His son and an attendant ride behind him, and a very large man walks in front armed with a long stick. The old gentleman is too decrepit to need a further guard, for in his condition, and in so crowded a place as Murree, he could not make across the hills and far away. He is allowed no money, is forbidden to write any letters or receive any, his food is daily sent down to him by the Commissioner, and he has no communication with any natives excepting those around him."

#### THE ENTRANCE TO THE JUGDULLUK DEFILE

THE ENTRANCE TO THE JUGDULLUK DEFILE

THIS picturesque defile is situated on the direct road between Gundamuk and Cabul, and is crowned by Jugdulluk Fort, where the remnant of the retreating army of 1842 are said to have made their last stand, and whence they were compelled to fly to Surkh-ab, and there massacred. The defile has been the scene of several conflicts between the Ghilzais and our troops during the present campaign, and notably of a battle between their chieftain, Asmatullah Khan, and Colonel Norman in December, when the latter deteated and drove off the enemy with great loss.—Our illustration is from a photograph taken by Mr. John Burke.

#### GHUZNEE

THE CITY OF CANDAMAR

#### THE CITY OF CANDAHAR

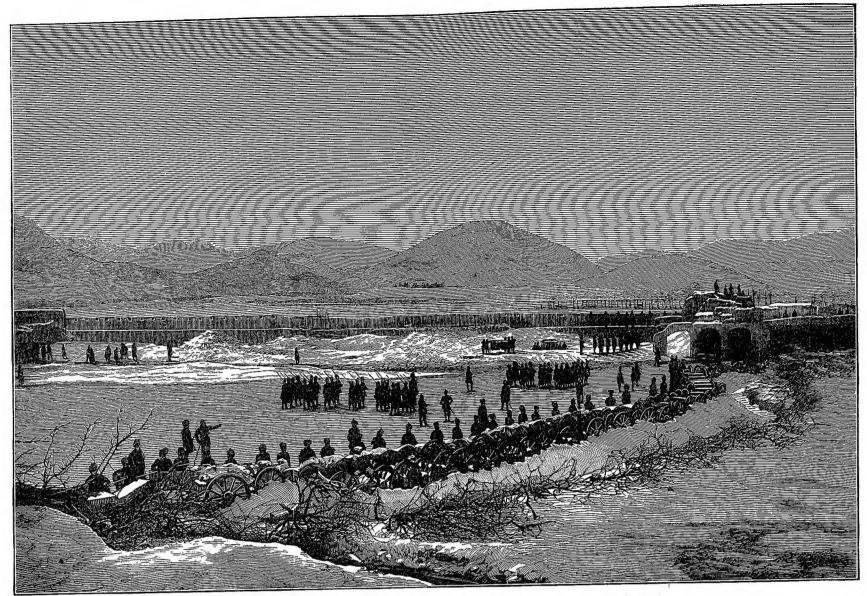
CANDAHAR, where General Primrose and his force are now in all probability besieged by Ayoub Khan's army, is situated in Southern Afghanistan, some 200 miles south of Cabul. The city is one of the most important trading marts of Central Asia, being a junction of the main roads to Cabul and Herat. Like all Central Asian towns, the houses are of mud, and its chief architectural features are its citadel and its bazaars, which form four large streets, running north, south, east, and west, three leading from gates of the town, and all meeting in the centre. This central square, termed the Charsu, is domed, and is regarded as a public market-place. Here all public edicts, &c., are read. Three of the bizaars and terminal gates are named after the towns to which they lead, namely, Cabul, Herat, and Shirkapore, while the fourth is named after the citadel upon which it abuts. This citadel, to which the British troops are presumed to have retreated, consists of a square, of which the sides are 80oft. long. It is surrounded by a mud wall of great strength, but somewhat out of repair, the parapets having suffered severely from the weather. The interior consists of a series of squares, once the palaces and gardens of the sons of a former Governor, Goondul Khan, who, however, were all expelled by Dost Mahomed. They have since been allowed to fall into ruins, but have of late been used as quarters for our officers. The citadel stands in the centre of the north side of the city, and completely commands the expression of the sons of the stands in the centre of the north side of the city, and completely commands the CANDAHAR, where General Primrose and his force are now in all They have since been allowed to fall into ruins, but have of fate been used as quarters for our officers. The citadel stands in the centre of the north side of the city, and completely commands the surrounding ground for some distance, so that there is every likelihood of General Primrose holding out until General Phayre or General Roberts arrives with reinforcements. The citadel is said to be well provisioned, and it is said—though here accounts differ—that the chief difficulty is that of water. There are several wells, but most are bad, and hitherto the chief supply has been from a canal, from which large cemented tanks are filled. Unfortunately the water cannot be kept very long in these tanks, and the canal can be cut off from without at any moment. To return to the town of Candahar, although it is surrounded by a wall, it would need a very large force to defend it adequately, though it is possible that the Candaharis, who would naturally object to Ayoub's avowed intention of looting the city, might themselves elect to oppose the enemy's entry, and wage warfare with the invader from the tops of their flat-roofed, parapeted houses. As the population numbers 60,000, this might have some effect in checking the advance of the Herat troops, particularly when the fire of our own two thousand troops is taken into consideration.

taken into consideration.

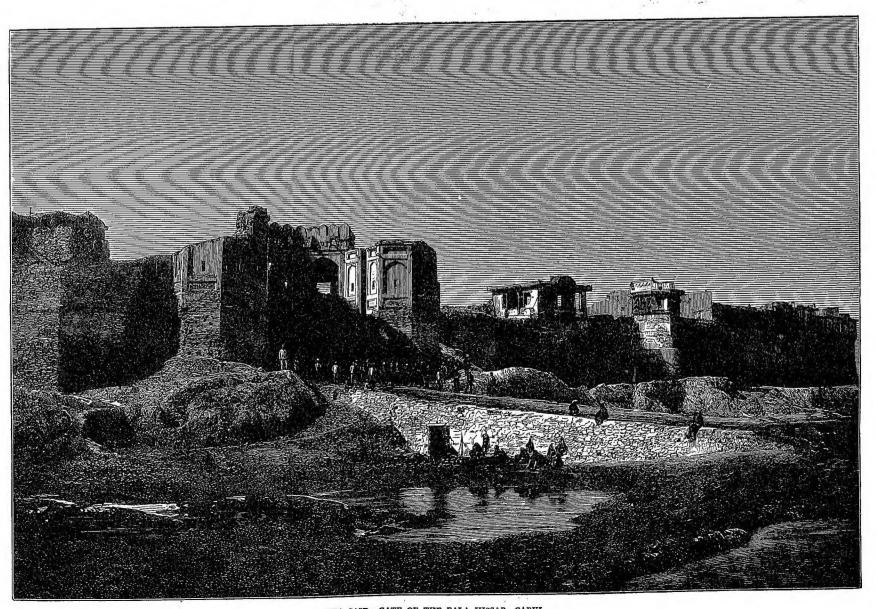
The country around Candahar is exceedingly fertile, the plain being watered by canals and water-courses leading from the River Argandab; and, as Major-General Biddulph recently described in a sketch of his march thither, "Villages cluster around the city on sketch of his march thiner, "Villages cluster around the city on three sides, cornfields, orchards, gardens, and vineyards are seen in luxurious succession, presenting a veritable oasis within the girdle of rugged hills and desert wastes all round." Candahar was occupied by the British during the War of 1842, and by Sir Donald Stewart in January, 1874. Our remaining illustrations depict two Passes on the road to Candahar, of these the best known is the Raises of the foat of Candana, of these the Sea Rilown is the Khojuck, which is close to Chaman, an important military station, about seventy-nine miles from Candahar and sixty-eight from Quetta. Our artist has been aided in these illustrations by the admirable lithographic views published in the late Captain James Rattray's work, entitled "Costumes and Scenery of Afghaunistan."

#### A STRUGGLE AGAINST DESPERATE ODDS

OUR four-page supplement depicts a charge of Afghan horsemen upon British infantry, and is taken from sketches supplied by Lieutenant C. Pulley, of the 3rd Goorkhas, of the action of Ahmed Kheyl, jought on April 19, when a most turious charge

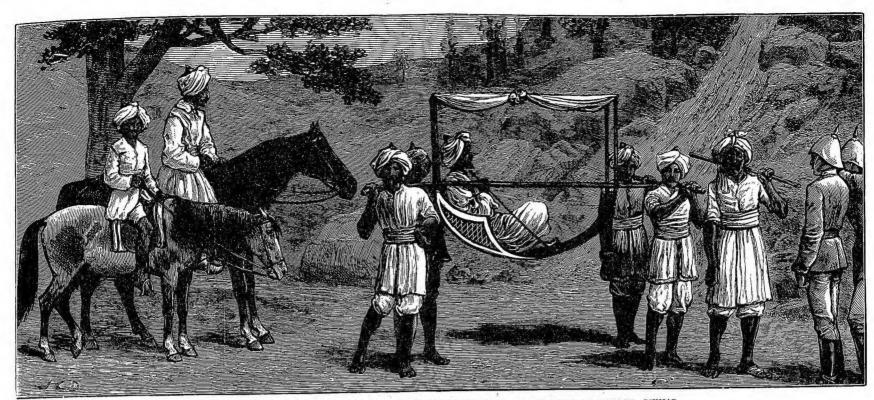


THE SHERPUR CANTONMENTS OUTSIDE CABUL



SHA SAID-GATE OF THE BALA HISSAR, CABUL

THE DISASTER IN AFGHANISTAN



MUSTAFI HABIBOOLA KHAN, YAKOOB KHAN'S PRIME MINISTER, IN CAPTIVITY AT MURREE, PUNJAB



THE DISASTER IN AFGHANISTAN

was made by the Ghilzais upon our own troops, and is thus described in a despatch written by Sir Donald Stewart:—"The guns had scarcely opened fire, when, in an incredibly short time, an enormous mass of men with standards formed on the hill-top, a considerable number of horsemen riding along the ridge with the intention of sweeping along our line to attack the baggage. . . The horsemen turned the left, and pouring down two ravines which formed a V, struck the Lancers before they could charge, forcing the leading squadron to its right and rear, while the 3rd Goorkha Regiment, the infantry of the left, formed rallying squares. The situation during the temporary success of the enemy was rendered critical, as the squadron could not be rallied till it had passed to the right of the line of infantry, then hotly pressed and going away." In this case the charge, bravely resisted by the Goorkhas, was ultimately repulsed, but in the action at Kooshk-i-Nakhud it is manifest from the accounts that the Bombay contingent, formed of men of much weaker physique than the bold little Goorkhas, were unable to resist the onset of Ayoub's cavalry, and giving way, threw the 66th Regiment into confusion, and so turned the fortunes of the day. One of the most curious features of the whole action is the non-co-operation of our own cavalry, who seemed to have remained quiescent throughout the battle.

#### THE BRITISH FLEET AT VILLA FRANCA

This sketch represents the British Fleet at Villa Franca, expecting orders to proceed to the East, and was taken during steam tactics, when the ships were in "columns of divisions, line abreast." The vessels composing the Fleet are the Alexandra, flagship of Vice-Admiral Sir F. Beauchamp Seymour, Teméraire, Monarch, Invincible, Thunderer, and Rubert

Monarch, Invincible, Thunderer, and Rupert.
"If we do not receive the expected orders," writes our correspondent, "we shall proceed on our cruise upon the French and Spanish coasts, visiting Toulon, Barcelona, Palma, Cartagena, Malaga, and Gibraltar."

#### AN INDIAN DUST STORM

AN INDIAN DUST STORM

At Jellalabad there is a dust storm on an average twice a week, and sometimes they last for two whole days. The dust is always accompanied by a very strong wind, and men have to hang on to the sepoy pall tent poles nearly all the time to prevent the tent and everything in it from being blown away. The dust is so dense that men can only find their way about the camp by means of a prismatic compass, and when this happens to get broken, they are really in a most pitiable predicament. In the morning, after the storm is over, the tents are invariably quite a foot deep in dust, and one has to dig about for boots and other buried property with a stick. The camels are well aware of the approaching storm, they crouch down and hold their muzzles close to the ground.

#### "LORD BRACKENBURY"

A NEW NOVEL, by Miss Amelia B. Edwards, is continued on page 117.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND

FARMING IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY See page 143.

AN AUSTRALIAN BUCKJUMPER See page 147.

#### RETURN OF THE EMPRESS EUGÉNIE

On Tuesday last week the Empress Eugénie arrived at Southampton on board the Union Steamship Company's mail-steamer Trojan, which left Cape Town on the 6th ult. The Princess Beatrice went out from Southampton in the Royal yacht Alberta to welcome the Empress, and off Yarmouth her Royal Highness welcome the Empress, and off Yarmouth her Royal Highness boarded the Trojan, and remained for about two hours, returning on board the Royal yacht when the vessels were off Netley Hospital. Meanwhile a party of the Empress's most intimate friends, including the Duc de Bassano, Prince Murat, and M. Piétri, left the docks in the steam-tender Alexandra, and steamed down Southampton Water to meet the Trojan, which they encountered just below Netley. The two vessels were immediately brought alongside each other, and the Empress, passing from the Trojan to the Alexandra, greeted her friends in the most affectionate manner. Sir B. Phillips, classing of the Union Stramship Company, here presented her greeted her friends in the most affectionate manner. Sir B. Phillips, chairman of the Union Steamship Company, here presented her Majesty with a bouquet of choice flowers tied up with a broad silken ribbon, on which were printed in gold letters some verses composed for the occasion by Mrs. Sarah Phillips. As the Alexandra approached the dock, the Empress kissed her hand to other friends who were awaiting her on the quay. She was led ashore by Sir B. Phillips, to whom she had already expressed her appreciation of all that had been done for her, both on the outward and homeward voyage. She was received on landing by the secretary of the Dock Company and the local superintendent of the South Western Railway, and among those who came ashore with her were Sir Evelyn and Lady Wood, the Hon. Mrs. Ronald Campbell, several intimate friends of the late Prince Louis, and one or two personal attendants. After again exchanging greetings with her friends, the Empress entered a saloon carriage, and the train left for Chislehurst direct, amid the respectful salutations of some hundreds of spectators. Before leaving the Trojan, the Empress presented Captain Travers with a diamond scarf-pin and a portrait of herself, and also gave a portrait to each of the officers of the vessel.



Mr. GLADSTONE'S ILLNESS has been a source of deep regret and some alarm, not only to his personal and political friends, but to society generally, some of his opponents having been amongst the most earnest and frequent of the inquirers concerning his condition. He was in his place in the House of Commons for a short time on Friday last week, and in the evening went to dine with Lord Frederick Cavendish, but had to leave the table before the meal was over; and on Saturday he was unable to attend the Cabinet Council. He was found to be suffering from inflammation of the lung, with He was found to be suffering from inflammation of the lung, with fever, and since Saturday he has been under the care of Dr. Andrew Clark and Sir W. Jenner, the former being in almost constant attendance upon him, and issuing frequent bulletins as to his condition, which had steadily improved up to Wednesday, when both the lung congestion and the fever had ceased. He was then making satisfactory progress, though still so weak that it can hardly be satisfactory progress, though still so weak that it can hardly be expected he will resume his place in the House during the present Session. On Monday morning Her Majesty telegraphed expressing her anxiety to know the exact state of the Prime Minister, and in the evening she sent a message expressing sympathy with Mrs. Gladstone and her family, and the hope that he would continue to improve. The Prince of Wales also telegraphed his regret, and that of the Princess. that of the Princess.

ELECTION NEWS.——Mr. Dodson has won a new seat at Scarborough, polling 1,828 against Mr. Duncombe's 1,606, a result which is not likely to be challenged, as the defeated candidate ELECTION NEWS .took occasion to congratulate his supporters on the diminished Liberal majority.—At Wigtown Sir John Hay (C.), has been returned, beating Mr. McMicking by 636 to 620.—At Liverpool the polling took place yesterday (Friday), the candidates being Lord Claud Hamilton (C), and Mr. Plimsoll (L).—The Oxford election petition has resulted in the unseating of Mr. Hall, for the corrupt practices of his agents. practices of his agents.

practices of his agents.

THE BANK HOLIDAY, though marred by heavy and frequent showers, seems on the whole to have been thoroughly enjoyed by those who were liberated from daily labour. Road, river, and rail were well patronised, as were also the London theatres and other places of amusement; whilst the parks, and other open-air resorts, attracted great numbers of pleasure-seekers. The Crystal Palace had 40,000 visitors, whilst its rival at Muswell Hill had no fewer than 107,852. Many semi-political gatherings, mostly Conservative, were held in various parts of the country.

THE MANSION HOUSE BANOUET to Her Maiesty's Ministers.

THE MANSION HOUSE BANQUET to Her Majesty's Ministers, which was to have taken place this evening (Saturday), has been indefinitely postponed in consequence of Mr. Gladstone's illness.

THE ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS AT SHOEBURYNESS got into camp on Saturday last, and the prize shooting commenced on Monday, special arrangements being made to guard against anything like unfairness in the marking. The camp is under the command of Colonel Keele, R.A.

of Colonel Keele, R.A.

At Scarborough, on Monday, a new Spa Saloon and Theatre, which has just been erected, was opened by the Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex. There was a State procession through the town, and a banquet, at which the Mayor of Scarborough presided.

London Water Supply.—The Select Committee on this subject have agreed to their report. It recommends the creation of a Water Trust, to be elected from the Corporation of the City, the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the other bodies representing water districts outside their jurisdiction. The Committee are of opinion that the "agreements provisionally accepted by Sir Richard Cross should be placed out of court." They do not oppose the purchase of the waterworks upon reasonable terms, but suggest that favourable consideration should be given to the possibility of obtaining a supply from other sources. ing a supply from other sources.

THE WIMBLEDON SCANDAL.—The court-martial on Sergeant Marsham, of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, for alleged complicity in the recent fraudulent marking at Wimbledon will commence on Friday next at the Forton Barracks. Gosport.

mence on Friday next at the Forton Barracks. Gosport.

THE SAVAGE CLUB on Saturday gave a banquet in the large hall of the Criterion Restaurant to the American actors now staying in London. Mr. Barry Sullivan presided, and amongst those who responded to the toasts were Mr. Cullough, Mr. Florence, Mr. McKee Rankin, Mr. Raymond, the Hon. J. Russell Lowell (the United States Minister), and Mr. Julian Hawthorne.

A Year's Railway Accidents.——From the report of the Board of Trade for 1879 just issued, it appears that 101 train accidents have formed subjects of inquiry during the past year, twenty-one companies being concerned in them. 1,032 persons were killed, and 3,513 injured, of whom 160 killed and 1,307 injured were passengers; 452 killed and 1,951 injured employes of the companies or of contractors, and 420 killed and 255 injured were trespassers or suicides. In addition to the above the companies have returned 42 persons killed and 2,314 injured from accidents have returned 42 persons killed and 2,314 injured from accidents which occurred on their premises, but in which the movement of vehicles on the lines was not concerned.

A FATAL COLLIERY EXPLOSION occurred at the Benham Mine, near Wrexham, on Tuesday night. The firing of a "shot" caused the ignition of some gas in the pit, and the whole of the men then at work reached the surface in safety; but subsequently, while the manager and eight men were exploring the workings, an explosion occurred, killing the whole party except one man, who escaped with severe injuries.



The principal event in the Parliamentary history of the week is the compulsory withdrawal of the principal actor. Achilles has retired to his tent, not to sulk, but suffering from a serious malady, and throughout the week all the world has been watching at his bedside. The place which Mr. Gladstone fills in the House of Commons is only to be fully realised by his temporary retirement. His illness is directly due to the fact of his all-pervading presence, and his incessant interference in the details of work. It is a wholesome rule which Lord Bearonsfield when leading the House of Commons. incessant interference in the details of work. It is a wholesome rule which Lord Beaconsfield when leading the House of Commons, and which Lord Hartington, who has temporarily resumed the post, studiously follows, that the Leader should sit through the whole of the night's business, leaving only for the dinner hour, when he shall be replaced by a trusty lieutenant. The difference between Lord Beaconsfield and Mr. Gladstone in this respect is that the former was content to sit and watch, interfering only at critical moments. Mr. Gladstone's impetuous spirit could not brook the enforced idleness of sitting on the Treasury Bench as a mere looker-on, or even as a reserve force. In respect of the Disturbance Bill, which probably is directly responsible for his breakdown, it was curious to watch the successive stages by which he ousted Mr. Forster from the probably is directly responsible for his breakdown, it was curious to watch the successive stages by which he ousted Mr. Forster from the conduct of the Bill, and took it on himself. At first he was content to sit and look on, but presently when the storm rose he jumped up, took the helm, and never relinquished it until he had steered the rickety vessel into the comparatively safe harbour of a small majority on the Third Reading.

It was the same with the Hares and Rabbits Bill, though the contest on this was neither so severe nor so prolonged. On Thursday night, the day before he took to his hed, he had resmitted

It was the same with the Hares and Rabbits Bill, though the contest on this was neither so severe nor so prolonged. On Thursday night, the day before he took to his bed, he had permitted himself the rare recreation of dining out. But he was in his place again long before laggard diners had returned, and remained there, haggard and fretful, whilst the debate proceeded. It was scarcely any business of his, as none felt more strongly than Sir William Harcourt. The whole debate was proceeding upon lines more than gratifying to the Ministry. The threatened opposition had literally collapsed. Some, like Mr. Pell and Mr. Rodwell, who had been called upon to curse the Bill, had blessed it altogether. Only faint cries of dislike came from members of his own side, who, like Mr. Brand. temper their Liberalism with Toryism, and call the Brand, temper their Liberalism with Toryism, and call the compound Whiggism. The Premier was evidently sick and weary, and might as well have gone home to rest. But as long as there was work to be done he would be there if he arrived only by crawling. When the motion for adjournment was made at his crawling he surgang up from his recumbent position, and in a way crawling. When the motion for adjournment was made at half-past twelve he sprang up from his recumbent position, and in a way conspicuously lacking in the suavity with which the Leader of the House is accustomed to treat an undesirable notion for adjournment, he petulantly protested against the interruption at such an hour. The proposal being persevered in he further resisted it, dividing again and again, and fiercely pinning down Mr. Onslow to his

again and again, and receive paining down Mr. Onslow to his unguarded threat of obstruction.

It was half-past two in the morning when he got home, and with a brief interval for a hurried dinner, he had been in the House for ten hours. On Friday morning he discharged the ordinary departmental business, dealt with his colossal correspondence, and was in his place at two o'clock. He remained on guard all the afternoon,

with pinched face and restless eyes, in the fire of which fever was already lurking. He looked so much more than usually fagged that his appearance created remark, and at least one of his colleagues in the Cabinet entreated him to run out of town, if it were only for a the Capinet entreated nim to run out of fown, it it were only for a few hours. He laughed the notion to scorn, and remained in his place, listening towards the end in obvious impatience to the light jokes with which Sir William Harcourt set the benches in a roar. He had only one idea in his mind, and that was to get the Hares and Rabbits Bill read a second time forthwith. Sir William Harcourt was running the matter dangerously close making idea. and Rabbits Bill read a second time fortiwith. Sir William Har-court was running the matter dangerously close, making jokes at half-past six when the debate must needs conclude at ten minutes to seven. Perhaps with his nerves less highly strung the Premier might have managed quietly to convey to the Home Secretary a hint of his indiscretion. As it was he took the best means at his disposal of his indiscretion. As it was he took the best means at his disposal by pulling his coat-tail, and reminding him that Sir Stafford Northcote had to speak, and that the whole must be over by ten minutes to seven. This is what will doubtless form his last contribution to the legislative business of the Session. Sir William Harcourt took the hint; Sir Stafford Northcote compressed his remarks within the necessary time; the Hares and Rabbits Bill was read a second time, and the Premier went home and took to his bed.

necessary time; the Hares and Rabbits Bill was read a second time, and the Premier went home and took to his bed.

It fortunately happened that he had successfully battled through all the critical stages of the Bills the Government had determined to pass. The Disturbance Bill was happily clear of the House. The Employers' Liability Bill had reached Committee. The Hares and Rabbits was read a second time. There remained beyond these only the Burials Bill, with respect to which Government must quickly decide whether they will embark upon a fresh and difficult combat. Mr. Gladstone's illness would settle this if there were yet any doubt. The Burials Bill will not be proceeded with this Session, though it is understood Mr. Gladstone's colleagues have accepted the legacy he leaves in the Hares and Rabbits Bill and the Employers' Liability Bill, and will vigorously push them through. The latter has supplied the chief business of the week in the House of Commons. Monday was devoted to Supply, and Mr. Mundella made his annual statement on the Education Estimates. The preliminary debate was prolonged; and it was only at midnight, at a time when the majority of members would have been better in bed, that they began to vote public money. On the whole, complaint cannot be made of lack of progress. A fair night's work was done, Mr. Parnell happily not finding in the English Education vote any fulcrum from which to work the lever of Home Rule.

Tuesday and Wednesday were given up entirely to the Employers' Liability Bill. It was taken both at the morning and evening sittings on Tuesday. The advance of the Bill was disputed inch by inch, and the progress was slow. There was some charge of obstruction; but, after what we are more familiar with, complaint can scarcely be made of the way in which the Bill was met. The regular Opposition have apparently thrown up the sponge. On Tuesday night, whilst the Ministerial Benches were crowded, the

can scarcely be made of the way in which the Bill was met. The regular Opposition have apparently thrown up the sponge. On Tuesday night, whilst the Ministerial Benches were crowded, the Opposition did not show up more than twenty or thirty members. The late Home Secretary and the late Attorney-General represented official Opposition, and did their best to keep up the old traditions of party warfare. But, as far as real fighting went, they were entirely distanced by the fourth party, who, sitting below the gangway, aligned with the front Opposition Bench, luxuriated in a double Opposition. They gravely lectured the Government and snubbed their natural leaders, posing as a perfectly impartial tribunal, with the comical gravity that supplied the only point of humour in a really practical debate.

As regularly happens at this time of the Session, the House of Lords, after remaining some months in obscurity, now comes to the front and claims the first place in public attention. Bills which have slowly and painfully fought their way through the Commons now reach the Lords, and are disposed of with a light heart, in from half-an-hour to an hour and a half. A distinguished exception was made in respect of the Compensation for Disturbance Bill, to debate

nati-an-nour to an nour and a hait. A distinguished exception was made in respect of the Compensation for Disturbance Bill, to debate which two long nights were devoted. By common consent the occasion was made one for an imposing muster of noble lords and fair ladies. The nearest interest of the aristocracy—the land—was attacked, and it was determined to repel the attack in force. The whole thing might have been disposed of by the simple process of a division unprefaced by a debate. After all that has been said in the Commons, and all that has been written in the newspapers it was Commons, and all that has been written in the newspapers, it was impossible that any new light could be thrown on the arguments. As to the practical result on the division, no one could pretend that a speech more or less in the House of Lords would have any influence. But in much the same way as it is the fashion to entertain by a great review of troops distinguished foreigners who may at some future time be possible enemies, it was deemed desirable that what Lord Beaconsfield called "a reconnaissance in force" of possible assailants on the English land tenure should be met by an interest of expressions of the same ways. possible assailants on the English land tenture should be met by an imposing array of arguments and votes. The division list, in which figure the names of 282 non-contents with the Bill and 51 contents is the most interesting reading in connection with the debate. Lord Salisbury was sarcastic and lively, more particularly when he assailed his noble connection, Lord Derby. But for the rest the speeches were ponderous and voluminous, the present and late Lord Chancellors between 'them appropriating five hours on Tuesday night's sitting. night's sitting.



The Ture.—The concluding days of the Goodwood Meeting hardly redeemed the opening ones as to the quality of the sport; and it seems admitted on all hands that as far as really good racing was concerned, "glorious" Goodwood showed this year with diminished glory. It is evident that a reorganisation of the gathering is needed, and that more "added" money must be forthcoming, and at the same time premiums given to the second and third horses in several of the most important races. Like many of the other contests, that for the Cup was reduced to a match, Chippendale and Dresden China only coming to the post. The race, however, was not without interest, as the former gave the latter 4lbs. in the last Cesarewitch and beat her, but in the Cup only 3lbs. Judging from the more recent performances of the animals, Chippendale was naturally made a strong favourite, but the mare won easily enough by three-parts of a length. In the opinion, however, of most good judges the result would have been different if there had been any animal in the race to force the running for Chippendale. The Chesterfield Cup, which is a sort of second edition of the Stewards', was won by Victor Emmanuel, who started second favourite to Lord Clive, and the winner's performance shows that his connections Clive, and the winner's performance shows that his connections were not very far wrong in considering him capable of winning the Northumberland Plate. The meeting of Thurio, Roehampton, and Inval in the Queen's Plate was a sporting affair, as Roehampton beat Thurio in their places in the Stakes, as Rochampton beat I huno in their places in the Stakes, he was made first favourite at even money. Thurio's stable, however, considered that his position was due to the muddling pace at which the Stakes was run, and the event showed that they were right in their judgment, as Prince Soltykoff's horse beat Rochampton by a length. The backers of favourites at the meeting had but a sorry time of it altogether, though not quite so bad as they had at Ascot, and as far as matters have progressed at Brighton, up to the time of making these memoranda they have not improved

their position. On the opening day on the Downs, with almost all London and Brighton present, Sir John Astley, who has not had the best of luck on the Turf for some years, scored twice, with Linden in the Bristol Plate and the useful Chevronel in the Linden in the Bristol Plate and the useful Chevronel in the Patcham Stakes, and the victories of the canary colours were very Patcham Stakes, and the victories of the canary colours were very popular. Preciosa followed up her success of last year in again securing the Marine Stakes, in which the Sun of York again failed securing the Marine Stakes, in which the Sun of York again failed securing the Marine Stakes, in which the Bun of York again failed securing the Marine Stakes and Lord Wilton's Sylva filly, divided the Maiden Plate with Mr. Leleu's Lowland Chief, but on the following day she had the Brookside Plate to herself, defeating the much-fancied Lamprey. The Brighton Stakes produced the fair field of ten, of whom Parole, who has been running for a long time without securing a winning bracket, was made favourite, with Advance and Bay Archer next in demand. But here again backers were at fault, as Humbert, but little fancied either by his own stable or the general public, won easily by a length from Bay Archer, whose staying powers had hardly sufficient scope for displaying themselves in the mile and a half. Mr. Jardine, of Pretender renown, is having a pretty good innings this year in the way of important handicaps, for in addition to the Brighton Stakes he has taken the Ascot Stakes, the Liverpool Cup, and the Goodwood Stakes; and no one we are sure will grudge such a good sportsman the success, nor the credit due to Bates and the Tupgill stable. Mr. Crawfurd started both Bay Archer and Edelweiss, and with a better result, as the last-named made the running, and after settling Solver and Advance gave way to Bay Archer, who won by a length, Mr. Crawfurd having made a declaration to win with him in preference to Edelweiss.—The St. Leger speculation has returne declaration to win with him in preference to Edelweiss.—The St. Leger speculation has returned pretty well into its old groove as it was before the Bend Or scare, Bend Or standing at little less than was before the Bend Or scare, Bend Or standing at little less than 3 to 1, and Robert the Devil at 4, while both together are backed at evens against the field. Mask, Zealot, and The Abbot stand next at 14; but many things are more unlikely than that the first-named, if all goes well with him, will hold a very much more prominent position before the flag falls at Doncaster.

CRICKET. -- Matters have been pretty lively in the cricket-field CRICKET. — Matters have been pretty lively in the cricket-neal lately. The Canterbury Week, with its bands, balls, flower shows, and private theatricals, has been in full swing, showing no signs of waning popularity. The first match was between a strong All-England Eleven, amateurs and professionals mixed, and Thirteen of Kent, among whom we were glad to notice Mr. C. Kemp, the captain and wicket-keeper of the Harrow Eleven which recently defeated Eton. The Kent team seemed inspired by the recent captain and wicket-keeper of the Harrow Eleven which recently defeated Eton. The Kent team seemed inspired by the recent victories won by the county, and played an excellent all-round game, eventually beating England by three wickets.—Surrey continues to have its ups and downs—an "up" this week, having defeated Sussex at the Oval by four wickets.—Yorkshire, as might have been expected, has made short work of Derbyshire, winning by seven wickets.—At St. Alban's, after a most exciting game, Hertfordshire has beaten Somersetshire by nine runs.—By far the msst interesting match of the week has been that between the Australians and Gloucestershire. The only crack county which our visitors had met before was Yorkshire, and beat it; but it was thought that Gloucestershire would be equal to the task of beating them. And so it seemed that it would, when Gloucestershire had only to make 166 runs in its second innings to win. This, however, it failed to do, as the last wicket fell for 97. Spofforth's bowling for the Australians was excellent as usual, and was the main cause of their victory. of their victory.

ot their victory.

AQUATICS.—The time-honoured race which was established in 1715 by Thomas Doggett, the famous comedian of "Old Drury," was rowed on Saturday last for the 165th time over the customary course from London Bridge to the Old Swan at Chelsea—a distance of a little more than five miles and a half. W. J. Cobb, of Putney, was the winner of the "coat and badge," and six guineas, to say nothing of Civic privileges. The race in its time has been the means of bringing out some good scullers.—It is stated that the American Hop Bitters Company have resolved to offer a prize of 5,000 dollars or more, to be rowed in this country by professional scullers, soon after the Hanlan-Tricket match. scullers, soon after the Hanlan-Tricket match.

BICYCLING.—Two members of the Canonbury Bicycle Club have just done a big journey by covering the distance from Land's End to John o'Groat's House, 900 miles, under thirteen days, thus making an average of seventy miles per day.



The World, a romantic play in five acts, written by Mr. Patl Meritt, Mr. Henry Pettitt, and Mr. Augustus Harris, and brought out at DRURY LANE on Saturday last, is certainly not more worthless as a work of art than Pocock's Miller and his Men, or Monk Lewis's Castle Spectre, or Dimond's Foundling of the Forest, while it possesses in a remarkable degree certain tramatic qualities which though not of a high order, are of the Forest, while it possesses in a remarkable degree certain dramatic qualities which, though not of a high order, are yet not to be despised. After all, the dramatist's legitimate field is not bounded by comedy, tragedy, or farce; it has always been allowed to include what is somewhat maptly called "melodrama," meaning thereby drama in which a romantic story of a more or less exciting kind is treated as more important than truthful delineation of character or strict propability; nor do playerers who have so to speak, a robust appetite proposability; nor do playgoers who have, so to speak, a robust appetite for entertainments of the stage object when in a mood to see a play to a good specimen of a piece of this kind.

Of the story of *The World* it would be impossible to give a complete outlier with the stage of the story of the story of the world it would be impossible to give a complete within the stage of the story of th

Of the story of *The World* it would be impossible to give a complete outline within reasonable limits. It is based upon the diabolical plot of a rascally Jew, named Moss Jewell, in conjunction with a confederate, named Blackstone, to defraud the underwriters by shipping from Cape Colony a pretended box of jewels. Instead of jewels the box contains dynamite, together with an ingenious piece of clockwork mechanism, designed to cause an explosion after a given lapse of time, and thus destroy the ship when at sea. This remendous incident has evidently been suggested by the terrible rime of the man Thomas, or Keith, at Bremerhaven, some years ago, and it may therefore be said to be within the strict bounds of possibility. The explosion accordingly takes place, after which care ago, and it may therefore be said to be within the strict bounds of possibility. The explosion accordingly takes place, after which care or two survivors appear upon a raft where they are rescued from their sufferings by a passing vessel. The scene is then transferred to London. Among those who have escaped are Sir Clement Huntingford, a young baronet of erratic habits, and a young lady, named Blythe, with whom he has fallen in love. As the young man has become cognisant of the real cause of the disaster, it would appear that retribution will quickly overtake the rascally Jew and nis confederate, now enjoying their ill-gotten gains in London. It is not so, however; for the next three acts are entirely devoted to the struggles of Sir Clement against the ingenious machinations and wickedness of these rogues in combination with the baronet's coundrelly younger brother and a dishonest lawyer, who has taken dvantage of Sir Clement's supposed death to appropriate a portion of his trust. The picturesque scenes which arise from this situation of his trust. The picturesque scenes which arise from this situation of affairs include an unjust detention of Sir Clement as an alleged unatic, an escape from an asylum, an assassination of a rogue in the dark in mistake for an honest man, a fatal fall down the lift of in hotel, an arrest of a gang of villains at a fancy ball, and so forth.

Most of these elements are of course familiar enough, a remark which applies equally well to the exciting scenes of the shipwreck and burning vessel and the escape on the raft. But it is a good feature in this instance that "sensation" scenes, as they are called, are not arbitrarily introduced, but have always some well-defined connexion with the story. Altogether there is a great deal of ingenuity displayed in maintaining an interest throughout a constant succession of supprises. The play is as well acted as its license. ingenuity displayed in maintaining an interest throughout a constant succession of surprises. The play is as well acted as its literary merits—which are certainly small—deserve. Mr. William Rignold, who is robust and loud-voiced, is well-suited to the part of the erratic baronet—the real hero of the piece; and if Miss Fanny Josephs, by reason of the refinement of her style of acting, which, as compared with these qualities, is what the painting of miniatures is to the art of the scene-painter—fails to stand forth with due prominence in the picture, her performance of the part of Mary Blythe, the heroine, is at least very pleasing. The Jew, who combines astounding villany with pitiful meanness, and yet wins high favour from the gallery by his low-comedy humour, may be assumed to have been introduced for the special behoof of Mr. Harry Jackson, who once more revels in a part of this kind, to the great Jackson, who once more revels in a part of this kind, to the great delight of his admirers. Mr. Augustus Harris, manager of the theatre and joint author of the play, represents the baronet's wicked brother, with due callousness and insolence; and there is an excellent performance of the part of the unjust solicitor and steward by Mr. J. R. Gibson, a gentleman who played Shylock and Sir Pertinax MacSycophant at morning performances last year with some success. Other parts are satisfactorily sustained by Miss Fanny Brough, Miss Helen Barry, Mr. Charles Harcourt, Mr. Augustus Glover, and others. The World was received with great favour by the vast audience assembled on Saturday evening, and it is reached the dectived to enjoy a long career of popularity. probably destined to enjoy a long career of popularity.

On Monday evening last Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft took their

farewell of HAYMARKET audiences under circumstances that could not fail to have been gratifying to them upon the conclusion of their first season in their new home. There was a large and distinguished audience, and much good feeling was exhibited in all parts of the house. The popular lady and gentleman thus honoured have already that the contract of the house. started for Switzerland for a longer holiday than usual. Meanwhile the theatre has reopened for an autumn season, under the management of Mr. J. S. Clarke. On this occasion Mr. Clarke appears ment of Mr. J. S. Clarke. On this occasion Mr. Clarke appears not as an actor, but simply as a manager—a new comedy by Mr. Boucicault, called A Bridal Tour, being the chief attraction of the playbill. Mr. Boucicault's piece, which is understood to be a partly rewritten and otherwise modified version of a comedy called Marriage, produced by him in New York a few years ago, presents a curious combination of extravagant farce and tender sentiment. It a curious combination of extravagant farce and tender sentiment. It is concerned with the adventures of two wedded couples, who, being intimate friends, are married at the same church on the same day. Of these Archibald Meek and his bride Fanny Tarbox represent, Of these Archibald Meek and his bride Fanny Tarbox represent, in spite of their sportively improbable appellations, the sentimental side of the story. They are, as is not unnatural in the case of a young couple on a wedding trip, constantly engaged in tender tête-à-têtes. On the other hand, Virginia and Mr. Persimmons, the other couple, regard one another with feelings of distrust and mutual apprehension, for each has a terrible secret. Virginia has been marvied here and for reasons that are explained has concealed married before, and, for reasons that are explained, has concealed the fact, together with the circumstance that she has a grown-up son named Walter, who has been reared in the belief that he is the son named Walter, who has been reared in the belief that he is the son of her family solicitor, Mr. Auldjo. Persimmons, too, has been married before, and though he has had no tidings of his disreputable wife for eighteen years he has no absolute proof of her death. Archibald, again, has on his part not been explicit regarding the suspicious, though really very simple and innocent, circumstance that he has been concealing a lady, to whom he has been suspected of being married, at his house in the country, where an infant child is known to be in his keeping. Out of these data Mr. Boucicault evolves some complications which are unfortunately at times more elaborate than amusing. The part of the conscience-stricken Persimmons is represented by Mr. Beckett, an English actor of some humour, who has gained a considerable reputation in America; and as the part of Virginia is assigned to Mrs. John Wood, it is hardly necessary to say that some diverting scenes arise. But the fun of the piece is somewhat strained, and the attempt to introduce a tender, and even a pathetic interest into this labyrinth of farcical blunders and comic misapprehensions is not altogether happy. Mr. Clarke's company is an excellent one. The sentimental couple are represented by Mr. Conway and Miss Gerard. Mr. Howe, who returns to his old home after a lyief secession, plays the part of Auldio. company is an excellent one. The sentimental couple are represented by Mr. Conway and Miss Gerard. Mr. Howe, who returns to his old home after a brief secession, plays the part of Auldjo; and Mrs. Alfred Mellon appears as an old maid and candid friend of all parties—the most amusing part in the piece. The performance, however, though not unfavourably received, excited no very great interest, and altogether A Bridal Tour cannot be ranked among its author's most successful efforts.

The season at the Lyceum was brought to a close on Saturday

author's most successful efforts.

The season at the LYCEUM was brought to a close on Saturday evening, with the extensive range of entertainments already announced. Mr. Irving and Miss Ellen Terry appeared again in Charles I., and the latter recited in character Matthew Lewis's rather distressing poem of "The Captive." Mr. Irving also recited one more Hood's "Dream of Eugene Aram;" Mrs. Bancroft, who had delayed for one day her departure for Pontresina with this especial object, recited "Major Namby;" Mr. Sims Reeves and his son Mr. Herbert Reeves sang ballads; and Mr. Toole gave his comic sketch called "Trying a Magistrate." The special feature of the occasion was Mr. Irving's address to the audience. After alluding to the extraordinary success of the revival of the Merchant of Venice, performed consecutively for 250 nights, Mr. Irving said: was Mr. Irving's address to the audience. After alluding to the extraordinary success of the revival of the Merchant of Venice, performed consecutively for 250 nights, Mr. Irving said:— "I shall take to heart the lesson of last season, and, when telling you of our hopes for the next, shall merely say definitely what we are going to open with; and then, lest you would think that I am vain enough to suppose that every piece will run a season, I shall promise that no piece shall be kept in the bills longer than you desire. I have several plays to produce, and when I think of the number of them, I am inclined to hope that some of them will be disastrous failures; for really, if they all prove successes, I shall be placed in an awkward position—in fact, tossed on the horns of a dilemma. Either I shall have to break faith with you by not doing what I wish to do, or I shall have to fly in the face of Providence by exceeding the limit of years allotted to man. I have a play by Alfred Tennyson—a very remarkable play—which I shall positively produce in the coming season. I have also a play by Mr. Wills in my possession—another remarkably play, I believe—on the subject of Rienzi. I have also in my possession a historical drama by Mr. Frank Marshall. Mr. Alma Tadema has completed his magnificent series of studies for Coriolanus; and there is another Shakespearian play I wish to produce as soon as possible—that is, if the public will be good enough to help me by staying away. However, I shall open about the middle of September with The Corsican Erothers." After tendering thanks to his patrons, and especially to his brother actors and Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. Herbert Reeves, Mr. Irving conthe middle of September with The Corsican Brothers," After tendering thanks to his patrons, and especially to his brother actors and Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. Herbert Reeves, Mr. Irving concluded as follows:—"You will be glad to know that I have been fortunate in retaining the services, in spite of innumerable baits to take her away, of Miss Ellen Terry. How you appreciate her exceptional gifts is shown by your reception of her to-night. For myself, I thank you again and again, and say—"Au revoir," with a hearty good-bye."

Mr. and Mrs. Chippendale appeared at the new SADLER'S WELLS Theatre on Monday evening, in a revival of Goldsmith's She Stoops to Conquer, which on Monday next will give place to Sheridan's comedy, The Rivals. The parts of the youthful heroines in both cases are sustained by Miss Virginia Francis.



RELICS OF THE EMPRESS EUGENIE'S VISIT are after by the denizens of South Africa, and at Maritzburg, Natal, fancy prices were realised by the sale of her equipage. The vehicle called the Empress's carriage was bought for 101.

THE PROPOSED TUNNEL THROUGH MONT BLANC is being seriously talked about in France, and the French Government have commissioned M. de Lepinaye to draw up a report on the scheme. The estimated cost is 3,600,000/L, and the extreme length would be about sight miles. about eight miles.

THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will hold its annual meeting at Devizes from the 16th inst. to the 21st inst. The county abounds in objects of archæological interest, and Stonehenge and other Druidic British and Roman remains will be visited and distinct the meeting and the proof. discussed during the week.

HEINE'S MEMOIRS, the existence of which have been so long disputed, have at last been discovered. They are in the possession, the Temps states, of the poet's brother, a wealthy baron at Vienna, who, however, declare that they shall never be published, on the ground that his brother left him this injunction.

THE VIKING'S SITIP lately unearthed at Sandefiord, and which we recently illustrated, has been taken to Christiania, and placed under cover in the University Garden, near the old boat found at Tumoe some years since. The damaged part is to be restored, and the colours, which rapidly faded in the sunlight, will be freshened up.

ON SUNDAY, the Exhibition of British Artists and the Summer On Sunday, the Exhibition of British Artists and the Summer the auspices of the Sunday Society. The visitors were admitted by tickets, which had been procured on written application. Each exhibition was open for two hours and a half. At Suffolk Street the number of visitors was 1,317, and at the Grosvenor Gallery, 2,250.

the number of visitors was 1,317, and at the Grosvenor Gallery, 2,250.

The Panorama Mania is still raging across the Channel, and amongst the new canvasses announced is one which M. Berne-Bellecour is preparing for Marseilles, and which will represent the Siege of Belfort. Another, the Siege of Lyons, is being painted for Lyons, by M. Dupray, at the price of 4,000. Benjamin Constant is painting a panorama called "Golgotha." He will be paid 12,000. for it; and it is rumoured that M. Rall, who painted the "Miner's Strike," exhibited at the last Salon, has been offered the same sum by an American company to depict the fight of the the same sum by an American company to depict the fight of the Kearsage with the Alabama.

BROMPTON HOSPITAL.——At St. George's, Hanover Square, on Sunday last, the Rev. Capel Cure, the rector, commended to the sympathy of his congregation the Consumption Hospital, which had done a most excellent work, though hindered by want of sufficient accommodation. The Committee were, however, entirely expending accommodation. The Committee were, nowever, entirely expending Miss Read's Legacy in building a new wing, which would give 137 more beds for in-patients. The new extension would entail an additional expenditure of 10,000/. a year, and towards meeting this the rector made an earnest appeal, especially asking for new subscriptions, which were much needed. The collection in the morning amounted to 41.7 for 47. amounted to 41%. 16s. 4d.

THE GRADUAL DISAPPEARANCE OF THE SKYLARK in the North of England has long been causing great concern to ornithologists. In many districts this year they have disappeared altogether. Mr. Edward, the Banffshire naturalist, has just published a short paper on the subject, in which he condemns the popular theory that starlings which have increased in corresponding ratio to the decrease of skylarks cause the mischief by breaking the ergs in the rest and of skylarks, cause the mischief by breaking the eggs in the nest and killing the young. He attributes the evil chiefly to the increase in of skylarks, cause the mischief by breaking the eggs in the nest and killing the young. He attributes the evil chiefly to the increase in cattle and the taking in of waste ground for agricultural purposes. "As a rule," he says, "larks do not breed among hay, corn, or barley. For one next I have known in such places I have, I may safely say, found a dozen in meadows, on pasture lands, and on waste ground. Now for one cow or ox that there were years ago there are about a score at present. Is it not possible that the great increase of these animals may have something to do with the decrease of the lark by trampling on their nests or maltreating them? I have myself while searching in clover fields for moths, and in grazing grounds for beetles, come across numbers in recent years so destroyed. Pheasants, partridges, and other ground breeding-birds also suffer severely. Besides, we have cattle and sheep now, but more particularly the latter, put into woods and plantations to eat down the herbage there."

The Enthusiasm occasioned by the arrival of Cleopatra's Needle

THE ENTHUSIASM occasioned by the arrival of Cleopatra's Needle in the United States has caused the New York Sun to burst out in the following poetical lines :-

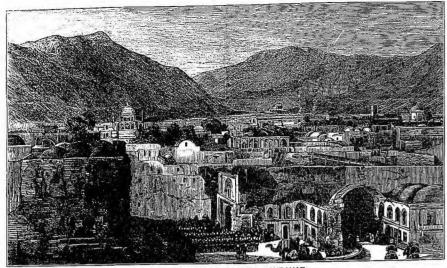
From sands Egyptian the Obeliscus,
Through waves promiscus, is on her way,
What pious rapture and exuitation,
Likewise elation, in my bosom play.

Likewise elation, in my bosom play.

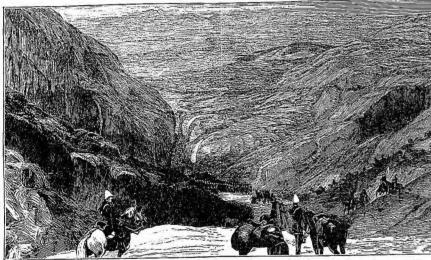
A NEW PALACE OF THE FINE ARTS has just been opened at Brussels. This building, which is opposite to the Palace of the Count of Flanders, was designed by the Belgian architect, M. Balat, and is adorned with four large columns of Scotch granite, bassorelievos, and bronze busts of Van Ruysbroek, John of Bologna, and Rubens. Groups representing the Teaching of Art and the Reward of Art are to be placed on the two wings of the edifice. The principal hall, which is devoted to sculpture, and is to serve for great fêtes, is lighted from above, and is surrounded by a double colonnade, in red marble as far as the first storey. This opens on the hall, and forms the gallery of paintings, also lighted from above. From the vestibule and from the rear of the great hall magnificent marble staircases lead to this gallery and the adjoining saloons. In the hall to the left of the great hall, is an Exhibition of Engraving and Architecture, and thence is reached an open side terrace, from which a fine view of Brussels is to be obtained.

Assyrian Antiquitties.—On Saturday afternoon last, at the

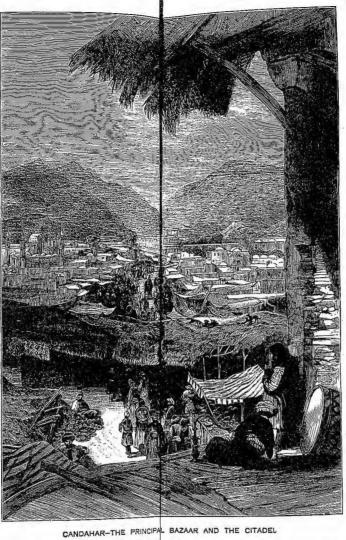
Assyrian Antiquities.—On Saturday afternoon last, at the British Museum, Dr. Samuel Kinns, F.R.A.S., Principal of the College, Highbury New Park, delivered a lecture on the antiquities College, Highbury New Park, delivered a fecture on the antiquities in the Assyrian Galleries. Amongst those present were the Bishop of London, the Persian Ambassador, Lord Shaftesbury, and other distinguished persons. The object of the lecturer was not only to convey views of life as it existed nearly 3,000 years ago in the cities of Nineveh and Babylon, but to demonstrate the vast value of the Assyrian remains in the national collection, which showed the manners and customs of this very ancient and extinct people. By the pictures in stone and the writings, we could see how they lived and how they made war; we could see them in their homes; we could observe their social customs; we could even study their religion. We could, moreover, obtain remarkable confirmation of their their field. With hy avidence trend out the truth of Hely With hy avidence trend out trends. religion. We could, moreover, obtain remarkable confirmation of the truth of Holy Writ by evidence traced out nearly 2,000 years before the commencement of the Christian era. In order to give his audience an idea of the size of Nineveh and Babylon, Dr. Kinns compared it with modern London by means of plans. He dwelt at length upon the vast dimensions of the destroyed cities, their magnificence, the character of the palaces and temples, the means of protecting the cities, and other features, including the huge winged bulls, and the symbolical teachings conveyed in these works of art. He also described the Assyrian system of government, the religious rights performed, the art of making war, the working in the quarries, and the domestic life of the inhabitants of Nineveh and Babylon.

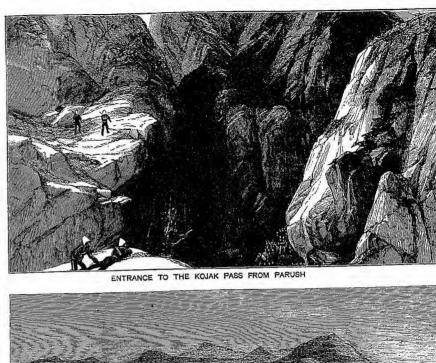


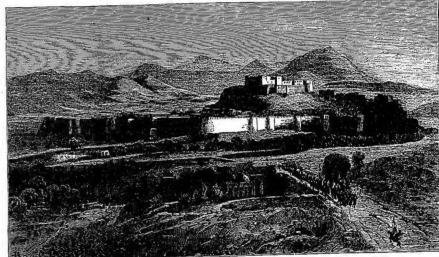
INTERIOR OF THE CITY OF CANDAHAR



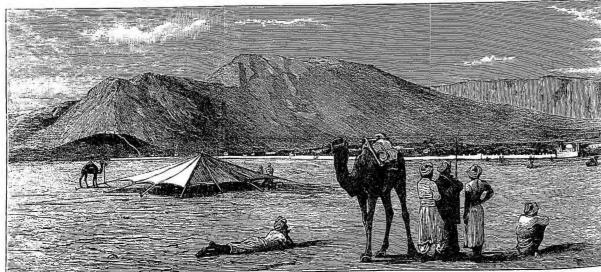
THE DESCENT THROUGH THE KOOJAH PASS







TOWN AND CITADEL OF GHUZNEE



THE CITY OF CANDAHAR



THE DISASTER IN AFGHANISTAN.—The battle in which General Burrows was so disastrously defeated was fought on the 27th ult. On the early morning of that day the General, hearing that Ayoub Khan's advanced guard had occupied Mainwand, marched out of his position at Kooshk-i-Nakhud in order to attack the enemy. The battle was opened by the cavalry and artillery, and then Ayoub's whole army moved up, a force of some 12,000 men, with twenty-six guns, and including large bodies of cavalry. The ground appears to have been slightly undulating, and the enemy is stated to have had the best positions. For four hours, until I P.M., the action was mainly confined to an artillery duel, and here the number of the enemy's guns, which, moreover, were admirably served, told severely on our troops. Our infantry then brought their breechloaders into play with considerable effect, but this temporary advantage was quickly put an end to by a tremendous charge of the enemy's cavalry upon the native infantry, who fell back in confusion upon the 66th regiment, abandoning two guns in their haste. The European infantry, the despatch states, "retreated slowly, but, despite the gallant efforts of General Burrows to rally THE DISASTER IN AFGHANISTAN. -- The battle in which them naste. The European infantry, the despatch states, "retreated slowly, but, despite the gallant efforts of General Burrows to rally them, were cut off from the cavalry and artillery." The defeat then appears to have been complete, and followers and baggage-carriers hurriedly streamed towards Candahar, which was some fifty nurriedly streamed towards Candahar, which was some fifty miles distant. After a severe fight, General Burrows succeeded in extricating the infantry from their dangerous position, and brought them into the line of retreat, but he then seems to have lost all control over the troops, and although he endeavoured to lead them back by a route where they could obtain water, no effort would induce the furtitives to leave the main road, which is waterless would induce the fugitives to leave the main road, which is waterless at this season. Thus the majority of casualties are attributed to the men falling from thirst and exhaustion, and of those who reached the given Agreedable the road and account to the control of the state of of the st the river Argandab the next morning many had not tasted water for twenty-four hours. This accounts for the small proportion of twenty-tour nours. This accounts for the small proportion of infantry who succeeded in escaping, and the comparatively large number of cavalry, horse-artillerymen, and officers, who reached Candahar in safety. Fortunately the pursuit, although continued to ten miles from Candahar, was not vigorous, or the disaster might have been yet greater. As it is, out of the force of 800 Europeans and 1,400 native troops, who formed General Burrows' brigade, no fewer than 1,400 are reported billed and avoired and of these and 1,400 native troops, who formed General Burrows Bigate, no fewer than 1,400 are reported killed and wounded, and of these 400 belong to the 66th alone. Twenty-one officers are also killed or missing, and of the twenty who reached Cabul, eight were wounded. Lieut.-Colonel Galbraith, who commanded the 66th, was

or missing, and of the twenty who reached Cabul, eight were wounded. Lieut.-Colonel Galbraith, who commanded the 66th, was amongst the killed, as also Major Blackwood of the Artillery. The Wali Shere Ali was present at the fight, and with General Burrows and Colonel St. John—by whom the despatch giving the details of the disaster was written—reached Candahar on the following day.

In Candahar preparations were at once made by General Primrose for a siege. The Duranis were expelled, and active measures taken to oppose as vigorous a resistance to the enemy as possible. Ayoub, however, does not appear to have marched at once upon the city, but to have proceeded to Mir Kareh, a few miles to the south-east, whence he sent detachments eastward towards Chaman, so as to intercept any relieving force which might be sent to reinforce General Primrose. The tribesmen also were collecting between Candahar and Chaman, so that General Phayre and his troops, who are now on their way to Candahar, will probably encounter serious opposition. Considerable anxiety is felt about the little garrison at Khelat-i-Ghilzai, which is a post by no means easy to defend, and is at present held by a very small force of Europeans. The Khan of Khelat, on learning the disaster, at once offered all the assistance in his power, and sent forward a quantity of camels, horses, and supplies. For this promptitude he has been thanked by Her Majesty in a special message.

In India the news has naturally caused the most intense excite-

Majesty in a special message.

In India the news has naturally caused the most intense excite-In India the news has naturally caused the most intense excitement, and troops are everywhere being actively pushed forwards to the frontier, the great difficulty being, as usual, that of transport. The main relieving force will be that of General Roberts, who has been ordered to take a detachment of 8,000 troops of all arms from Cabul and march to Candahar. At present the Cabul force, under Sir Donald Stewart, numbers 24,000 troops, with an additional 12,000 troops on the Khyber line, and although the city and district appear to be perfectly quiet and peaceful, it would be scarcely 12,000 troops on the Khyber line, and although the city and district appear to be perfectly quiet and peaceful, it would be scarcely prudent to detach a greater number of men, as a rising of the tribes might occur at any time, particularly when General Burrows' defeat is fully known. In the meantime the negotiations have been going on with Abdurrahman as though nothing had happened, and Mr. Lepel Griffin has had an interview with the Ameer at Zimma, midway between the Afghan and British camps. The result seems failly settificatory, as the impression he gave the to have been fairly satisfactory, as the impression he gave the British representatives was that he evidently desires our friendship, but that he feels his position insecure until he has had more success in gaining over the country to his side. He declines, however, it is said, to attend a Durbar in the British camp, alleging that his Turkestan troops are suspicious, and that he finds it necessary to

numour them.

AFFAIRS IN THE EAST.—Another "identical" Note has been presented to the Porte, in which the Powers peremptorily summon the Turkish Government to fulfil the convention respecting the cession of territory to Montenegro. It is rumoured that the Porte is willing to yield on this point, and thus deprive the much talked-of naval demonstration of its chief raison d'etre, as the Greek question is only being made a subsidiary reason for the step. What the Powers would then do is a matter of doubt, though, as a half promise was made to France that a settlement with regard to Greece would be insisted upon, it is probable that the naval demonstration promise was made to France that a settlement with regard to Greece would be insisted upon, it is probable that the naval demonstration would take place after all. At present the Powers have made no rejoinder to the Porte's reply to their note, and this in Turkish Ministerial circles, where the wish is usually father to the thought, is construed into a somewhat hopeful sign. Although the air is full of reports of intrigues and counter-intrigues, there is little actual news, the warlike preparations continue; an American missionary has been murdered near Ismidt while on his American missionary has been murdered near Ismidt while on his way to distribute relief to the starving population, and matters in Eastern Roumelia continue to be eminently unsatisfactory, the Pan Bulgarian agitation being still on the increase.

FRANCE.——The Republicans have gained a further victory in the elections for the Councils-General. They have won 206 seats out of 712 seats held by the Conservatives, and now claim a majority in eleven out of the thirty Departmental Councils, where hitherto their adversaries have been supreme. Thus the Republicans now control sixty-six out of eighty-five Councils, in addition to Paris and the three Algerian departments. Both Bonapartists and Legitimists have been severely defeated, while the Irreconcileables have been by no means wholly successful, and this is looked upon as a hopeful omen for the Legislative elections next year. Such a result certainly serves to manifest the popularity of the present regime, not merely in the capital and the big towns, but throughout the country, despite the odium incurred by the measures taken to expel the Jesuits. There is now considerable speculation as to what course the Government will adopt towards the other religious orders of whom your ment will adopt towards the other religious orders, of whom very few have applied for the necessary authorisation. A wholesale expulsion of these bodies would raise an almost universal protest, and would seriously endanger the stability of the Government;

while, on the other hand, it will be difficult for the Government after its past action to let the matter drop. It is most probable, therefore, that some compromise will be effected at the last moment. Beyond these there have been few home topics of interest, and the papers have been busily discussing the illness of Mr. Gladstone, which has created universal symmetry, the disaster in Afghanistan. which has created universal sympathy, the disaster in Afghanistan, and the proposed naval demonstration in Turkish waters. France is by no means eager to enter upon any active policy in the East, and fancies she sees the hand of Bismarck in every direction and environment to have the formula in every direction. and nancies sne sees the hand of Bismarck in every direction endeavouring to hurry her forward into another catastrophe. Still, there is a strong feeling that Greece should have her promised accession of territory, and as France has been foremost in procuring her this on paper, it is difficult to see how the French Cabinet can avoid joining in any active measures which the other Powers decide to adopt.

In PARIS there has been an epidemic of horrible murders, which In Paris there has been an epidemic of horrible murders, which have furnished plenty of food for the gossiping papers; and a portion of the Boulevard St. Michel has falled into the catacombs beneath, owing to the collapse of a main sewer. Three houses showed signs of giving way, and were at once vacated and carefully propped up. On Tuesday M. Victor Hugo made another of his characteristic speeches at a distribution of prizes of the Elementary Education Socie y. Reverting to his old subject of the Revolution, he declared that "the old Europe has ended; a new Europe begins. The new Europe will be a Europe of peace, industry, concord, and good will"—a happy state of things, which we have also heard prophesied for the Millennium.

RUSSIA. — General Skobeleff is still skirmishing with the Tekke-Turkomans, and reports that 10,000 Tekkes and 700 Mery-Turkomans are concentrated at Geok Tepé. General Skobeleff is shortly expected to advance in force upon this point, and fight the battle of the campaign. Further reinforcements, however, are to be sent to him.

The negotiations with China have received an impetus owing to the arrival of the Marquis Tseng, the Chinese Ambassador, at St. Petersburg. The general impression is that hostilities will now be Petersburg. The general impression is that hostilities will now be avoided; and the semi-official Bereg points out to China the dangers she would incur by going to war, and declares that "Russia will be undoubtedly inclined to preserve peace with China, for a new war would certainly not be to our advantage—all the more as the conflict would last a long time, and would demand in any case very large sacrifices."—Some Greek and Armenian emigrants, who attempted to land on the Russian shore of the Black Sea at Novorossisk, were fired upon, their vessel subsequently captured by a Russian war steamer, and the passengers imprisoned. This inhospitable reception will probably discourage some out of half a million Greeks and Armenians who are thinking of emigrating to Russia.—There has been a great fire at Nijni Novgorod, in which seventy houses have peen a great fire at Nijni Novgorod, in which seventy houses have been destroyed.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA .-- There is to be a meeting of the Emperors of Germany and Austria at Ischl on the 10th inst. Great sympathy has been expressed in Germany, as indeed throughout all Europe, at the illness of Mr. Gladstone, and there is considerable speculation respecting the effect that his temporary disappearance from the political world may have upon the Eastern and other international

The movement for holding an International Exhibition ITALY .. at Rome in 1885-6 is gaining ground, an influential initiative committee has been formed and a periodical has been started to advocate the scheme.

Even the site has been chosen—namely, the area between the Villa Borghese Corsini and Taronia, which can be reached by way of the Porta del Popolo, the Porta Salara, or the

The report has been authoritatively contradicted that the Pope was indisposed, and intended to go into the country.

indisposed, and intended to go into the country.

UNITED STATES.——The Democrats carried Alabama and Kentucky in Monday's elections, so that both these States can be reckoned upon for General Hancock. Another outrage on the United States flag is reported from the Cuban coast, where a Spanish cruiser stopped, boarded, and searched an American schooner named Goor e Washington.

Dr. Tanner's forty days' fast ends to-day (Saturday). On Tuesday he was stated to be "weak, peevish, and nauseated." On Wednesday he suffered considerably from nausea, and he stated that "he did not feel well at all." His chief drink lately has been carbonic acid water. At the end of the fast he will take a little milk

that "he did not feel well at all." It is carbonic acid water. At the end of the fast he will take a little milk and water, and subsequently a little water melon. Should, however, his stomach be unable to retain this he will take a preparation made from fowls' gizzards.

SOUTH AFRICA.—Sir Bartle Frere has been officially informed of his recall, and the news has caused considerable sensation in Cape Town, particularly as Lord Kimberley in his despatch stated that this step was caused by the action of the Cape Parliament in refusing the proposed conference. The news from Basutoland continues to be comparatively satisfactory, and Letsea is announced to have recovered and restored some of the cattle which had been stolen from the loyal natives by their hostile countrymen.



THE COMING HARVEST.—The Primate has written to the clergy of his diocese, asking them to read during Divine Service a notice requesting their congregation to pray both publicly and privately for God's blessing on the coming harvest.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CENTENARY celebrations have been THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CENTENARY celebrations have been continued with much enthusiasm at various places during the past week. On Saturday there were great demonstrations at Burnley, and at Lister Park, Bradford, and on Sunday special services, some of which were in open air, were held at Leicester, Derby, Newport, Monmouthshire, Sheffield, Cheltenham, Cambridge, and other places, the scholars and teachers taking an active part in the singing at each. On Wednesday a great meeting was held at Derby under the presidency of Sir W. Harcourt, who in response to loud calls as to the health of Mr. Gladstone, said that he hoped the danger was past, and remarked that though the Premier's friends could not hope past, and remarked that though the Premier's friends could not hope to emulate his genius, they could at least imitate his untiring devotion to public service.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE is continuing its sessional meetings in the City Road Chapel. On Thursday last week forty-six young ministers were ordained by the imposition of hands; the charge being delivered by Mr. B. Gregory, the ex-President. In the evening the statistics of Church membership were read. The total number of members was 376.678, a decrease of 224, the deaths the evening the statistics of Church membership were read. The total number of members was 376,678, a decrease of 934, the deaths during the year having been 5,572. On Friday, Mr. C. II. Spurgeon, being suddenly discovered amongst those present, was called upon to address the Conference, and met with a cordial greeting. The subject of using Wesleyan premises for political purposes and for amusements was discussed, and a resolution passed that their trust premises should be used for Methodist purposes only. On Saturday it was announced that the revision of the first Catechism was completed. On Monday, at the first mixed session of laymen and ministers, it was resolved to make an effort to raise the Thanksgiving Fund to 300,000%, the sum already subscribed heing

287,155%. In the evening the Fernley Lecture was delivered by the Rev. J. S. Banks, of Glasgow, the subject being "The Relation of Christianity to the Science of Religion." On Tuesday one of the chief subjects of discussion was the desirability of collecting statistics of the accommodation and attendance at the Wesleyan chapels; and "Home Missions," and it was decided that a staff of ministers should be selected to conduct special missions from town to town. Mr. Booth, the "General" of the Salvation Army, was introduced to the Conference, and gave an account of the work carried out by the organisation of which he is the head. On Wednesday the subject of chapel building was discussed, and Sir F. Lycett, one of the Treasurers of the Fund, said that if the Committee would give 500% for each of the new chapels to be erected within the year, he would give an additional 5,000% towards them. would give an additional 5,000% towards them.

-Under this heading The A RESPITE FOR RITUALISTS .-A RESPITE FOR RITUALISTS.—Under this heading The Times prints a letter from Lord Ebury, saying that in consequence of the state of public affairs since the General Election so entirely engrossing popular attention, it has not been thought advisable to bring forward the Bill which he introduced into the House of Lords, for the purpose of chedicar the first hear mid-arranged in the contract of the contract of the contract the first hear mid-arranged in the contract of the contract the first hear mid-arranged in the contract of the contract the first hear mid-arranged in the contract of the contract the first hear mid-arranged in the contract the con

bring forward the Bill which he introduced into the House of Lords, for the purpose of checking the further widespread inculcation of auricular confession and priestly absolution in the Church of England. He trusts, however, that next session a fairer opportunity will be obtained for the complete discussion of the question.

THE POOR CLERGY RELIEF CORPORATION held its annual meetings on Tuesday, under the presidency of Bishop Claughton. The report stated that the number of appeals to the Corporation had been unusually and painfully numerous, but that in spite of this their fund had steadily increased, and the grants had exceeded those of the preceding year by more than 1,000%, the number of cases relieved being 427 against 356. The report was adopted and all the relieved being 427 against 356. The report was adopted and all the officers re-elected.

officers re-elected.

St. James's, Hatcham.—Last Sunday morning there was another "scene" in this church, the unusually large congregation being dismissed by the Vicar after a short service, in consequence of Mr. Sanders, the people's churchwarden, objecting to the appointed preacher of the day, the Rev. T. P. F. Davidson, Chaplain of St. James's House of Mercy, Fulham, on the ground that he held no licence. There had been a discussion in the vestry, during which it was contended that Mr. Davidson, having been appointed by the Bishop of London, did not require a licence, but Mr. Sanders persisted in his objection. The cross-summonses taken out last week were heard on Tuesday and Wednesday last at the Greenwich Police Court. A member of the choir and the organ blower were severally fined 40s, and 20s. for having assaulted a Mr. Morton in the vestry, whilst the charge against Mr. Sanders, the parishioners' churchwarden, of pulling down a floral cross, and "molesting" the clergyman, broke down on a technical point, the case being adjourned on the understanding that the dispute should be referred to the Bishop. to the Bishop.

THE REV. ISAAC NELSON, M.P., attended the monthly meeting of the Belfast Presbytery the other day, and was very warmly received. He expressed his thanks to the General Assembly for its kindness in allowing him to remain Senior Minister of the Donegal Street Chapel. He did not consider it a disadvantage for the Presbyterian Church of Ireland to have two of its ministers.

Members of the House of Commons.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT representing Irish constituencies have sent to the Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris an address of sympathy on the expulsion of the Jesuits from

ST. GILES'S CHRISTIAN MISSION .--We have lately received ST. GILES'S CHRISTIAN MISSION.—We have lately received a report of the last year's work performed by the agency of this Society, which, in a very poor and miserable part of London, is doing an excellent work in an unobtrusive fashion. Men who have fallen into distress from folly or crime have been provided with work, or helped to emigrate; neglected boys have been sent to sea, discharged prisoners in large numbers have been induced to sign the temperance pledge. For children there is a Sunday School, as well discharged prisoners in large numbers have been induced to sign the temperance pledge. For children there is a Sunday School, as well as special Sunday Services, for young men and women Bible classes, while the Band of Hope has enrolled ninety fresh members during the year. Then there is a House-to-House Visiting Society, open-air preaching, Mothers' Meetings, a Savings' Bank, and a Mission Chapel. Mr. George Hatton, 12, Ampton Place, Regent Square, W.C., is the superintendent, and subscriptions will be thankfully received by him, or by Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co., 54. Lombard Street, F.C. 54, Lombard Street, E.C.



THE chief members of the Royal Family are now assembled in the Isle of Wight. On Saturday Her Majesty held a Council at Osborne, after which M. Callainaki Catardji, Minister for Roumania, and M. Marinovitch, Envoy from the Prince of Servia, presented their credentials, Sir Arthur Rumbold, Bart., kissed hands on his appointment as Minister of Buenos Ayres, and Mr. Philip Protheroe Smith (Mayor of Truro), and Mr. George H. Chambers (Chairman of the Royal Victoria and Albert Docks) were knighted. Princess Beatrice was present during the ceremony. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught arrived in the evening. On Sunday the Queen, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and the George Connor, M.A., Vicar of Newport and Chaplain in Ordinary to Her Majesty, officiating. On Monday and Tuesday the Queen took her usual walks and drives, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Beatrice rode out.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and their children went to

The Prince and Princess of Wales and their children went to Portsmouth on Saturday afternoon, where they embarked on board the Osborne, and proceeded to Cowes for the Regatta week. On Monday Count Batthyany entertained the Prince and Princess and a large party in his grounds at Eaglehurst on Southampton Water. On Tuesday the Prince of Wales sailed in his cutter yacht Formosa, and came off victor in the race for the Queen's Cup.

Princess Louise and Prince Leopold embarked on board the Polynesian for England on the 31st ult. Prince Leopold is still suffering great weakness from his recent injury.



PROMENADE CONCERTS.—The Italian opera season having come to an end, another sort of musical entertainment is now to be heard within the walls of Covent Garden Theatre. Messrs. A. and S. Gatti have once again come forward with those so-called "Promenade Concerts" which for several years they have directed. Dr. Sullivan having seceded, and Mr. Alfred Cellier, his erewhile substitute, migrated to the other side of the Atlantic, we have a new conductor, in the person of Mr. Frederick H. Cowen, a young and highly talented composer, who has secured a force of some hundred practised executants. His first violin and assistant

conductor is Mr. A. Burnett, a gentleman whose name deservedly carries weight; his pianoforte accompanist is M. Thouless, also thoroughly competent for the place he holds. The opening programme was a fair specimen of what we may expect on nights not gramme was a fair specimen of what we may expect on nights not devoted to special purposes—on "miscellaneous nights," as it is the fashion to term them. The orchestra, unaided by the military hand, afforded convincing proof of its quality in the scherzo from A thinwamer Night's Dream, an entr'acte from Massenet's Dan Caran hand, afforded convincing proof of its quality in the scherzo from A Midsummer Night's Dream, an entr'acte from Massenet's Don Cæsar de Bazan, and the splendid overture to Guillaume Tell, the finale to which was encored. With the military band as accessory, the overture to L'Etoile du Nord, the Turkish march from the Ruins of Athens, a "grand selection" from Mignan, &c., showed to advantage the powers of both united. The "selection" is to be praised, not only because the most conspicuous themes in the work of M. Ambroise Thomas are clevely put together, giving favourable opportunities to expert soloists like Messrs. Radcliff, Egerton, and Howard Reynolds (flute, oboe, and cornet-à-pistons), but because it Howard Reynolds (flute, oboe, and cornet-a-pistons), but because it Howard Reynolds (flute, oboe, and cornet-à-pistons), but because it is reasonably short. In the way of ballet-music Mr. Cowen might have chosen something more interesting than the movements from Rubinstein's Feramorz. Has Auber composed no ballet-music besides that in Masaniello? What has become, for example, of (instarce, Le Dieu et la Bayadère (comprising the exquisite "Shawldance"), Le Lac des Feès, L'Enfant Prodigue, &c., that at these concerts we should be compelled to listen to such dreary commonnage? The pianist of the evening was Miss Ressie Richards of concerts we should be compelled to listen to such dreary common-place? The pianist of the evening was Miss Bessie Richards, a young and rising artist whom it is always a pleasure to see and hear. At the "Classical Night" (why "Classical?") Mr. Cowen and his orchestra enjoyed famous 'opportunities for display in the overtures to Euryanthe and Leonora (No. 3), and the piquant Scherzo from Mendelssohn's "Reformation Symphony." The Ride of the Walkine was well executed, but taken too slowly for the intended effect. The feature of the concert was Haydn's Symphony in C (No. 1 of the "Salomon" series), a work that may be regarded as the basis of all symphonies coming after it, and which in C (No. 1 of the "Salomon series), a work that may be regarded as the basis of all symphonies coming after it, and which influenced not only Mozart, but Beethoven (see his "No. 1," in the same key). This was admirably rendered, from beginning to end. The andante and finate from Chopin's concerto in E, and the The andante and finate from Chopin's concerto in E, and the gavotte by Raff for pianoforte, with orchestra, were the pieces set down for Miss Bessie Richards, whose charming touch and unaffected style of phrasing were especially notable in Chopin's andante. The gavotte, like so many other things that bear the name of its too-prolific composer, is a mere "wind-bag." Of course we have had a fair quantity of vocal music during the week, and that supplied by singers of acknowledged excellence, the mere course we have had a fair quantity of vocal music during the week, and that supplied by singers of acknowledged excellence, the mere citation of whose names will suffice:—Mesdames Patey, Osgood, and Antoinette Sterling; Misses Marie Davies and Annie Marriott; Messrs. Edward Lloyd, Frank Boyle, Maybrick, and Foli. They have, however, introduced nothing new to speak of, but, encouraging by their acquiescence the intolerable nuisance of "encores," have helped unreasonably to prolong the duration of the concerts. We have also had waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and so forth. The concert last night was to be chiefly devoted to the music of Evalish composers. English composers.

English composers.

VERDI.—Already Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour of France, Verdi has recently been awarded the distinction of Grand Cross of the Crown of Italy. The celebrated composer of Rigoletto and Aida is now exclusively giving attention to the new opera founded upon Shakespeare's Othello, the libretto for which has been written for him by Signor Arrigo Boïto, whose Mefistofele, in its condensed and revised form, has been everywhere received with such condensed and revised form, has been everywhere received with such enthusiasm, and whose Nerone, now very nearly completed, is looked forward to with such general interest. In Nerone, as in Alifistofele, Signor Boïto is his own librettist. His co-operation with Verdi, in an opera which has one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies for basis, is likely to yield results of which history may have to speak. The conduct of the story, we are given to understand, follows Shakespeare as closely as consorts with effective musical treatment. Therein it widely differs from the weak conception prepared for Ressiniat Naples in 1866, to which neverconcoction prepared for Rossini at Naples in 1816, to which, nevertheless, we owe one of the most eloquent pages in the lyric drama—the last act, containing the "Willow-Song" (a long drawn out melody such as comes to few), the last ebullition of Othello's frenzied jealousy, and the death of the innocent Desdemona.

PROPHETS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY .- Not very long since the Washford Musical Society, aided by delegates from the Taunton Philharmonic Association and the Taunton Musical Society, gave a Philharmonic Association and the Taunton Musical Society, gave a concert, the programme of which was made up exclusively from the works of G. A. Macfarren, Professor of Music at the Cambridge University and Principal of our Royal Academy. This was so successful as to lead to another step in the same direction, and a concert devoted entirely to works by W. Sterndale Bennett, Macfarren's immediate predecessor both at Cambridge and in London, followed, with the happiest results. The programme was in two divisions. The first, commencing with the overture to Byron's Parisina (which breathes the spirit of the poem from end to end), included the "Three Diversions" (pianoforte duets), of which Schumann spoke in such glowing terms, together with vocal which Schumann spoke in such glowing terms, together with vocal solos and part-songs, among them being the unaccompanied quartet, "God is a Spirit," from *The Woman of Samaria*, which will be remembered as having formed part of the funeral service when our most gifted English musician found a resting-place among other millustrious members of his coeff in the time hours of precipits of most gifted English musician found a resting-place among other illustrious members of his craft, in the time-honoured precincts of Westminster Abbey. The second part was wholly taken up with The May Queen, deservedly the most popular of English secular cantatas (originally produced at the Leeds Festival of 1858, when Bennett himself directed). The concert proved so great a success that it was resolved to give another (on Thursday, the 8th inst.), with exactly the same programme. The conductor and chief promoter of this movement in a right direction is Mr. Thomas J. Dudeney, an enthusiastic local professor to whom all credit is due. enthusiastic local professor to whom all credit is due.

THE BRINSMEAD RECITAL. --- All new contrivances to enlarge THE BRINSMEAD RECITAL.——All new contrivances to entarge the means and improve the mechanism of the pianoforte must engage the attention of musicians, to whom this instrument is a sine quá non. Much interest was therefore raised by the announcement that a Pianoforte Recital would be given on Wednesday alternoon, in St. James's Hall, by the eminent manufacturers, Messrs. Brinsmead, at which pianofortes intended for the Melbourne Exhibition of 1880-81 would be tried. The feature exciting most curiosity, however, was the sostenuto, or "sound-sustaining" pedal, which—to cite the description published by the manufacturers which—to cite the description published by the manufacturers—
"prolongs any note or chord at the will of the performer, without the unpleasant effect of other sustained notes (or chords) mingling with it." This may be employed, or laid aside, at any given moment. The experiment was entrusted to the well-known pianist, Chevalier Antoine de Kontski, who found the desired opportunities in his own fantasia on themes from Faust. The result was all that the inventors could have desired, fully carrying out their idea. There were other pieces, vocal and instrumental, in the programme; but this was the leading purpose of the Recital.

WAIFS. - The Mayor of Parma has been at Milan in search of — The Mayor of Farma has been at Mhai in Seatch of a director for the Parmesan Opera House.—"Ole Bull's visit to Europe," says the Boston Courier, "will give him some needed rest before commencing his sixteenth farewell tour in America.—The monument to Bellini at Catania is finished.—It will take six years monument to Bellini at Catania is finished.—It will take six years to complete the new theatre in Pesth, the Government only paying 200,000 florins annually towards the cost of its erection.—The Italian opera season in St. Petersburg will begin on the 4th of October.—Although the Khedive grants a liberal sum for the reopening of the Viceregal Theatre at Cairo, no more "grand opera" will be undertaken—no more Aidas, economy being now will be undertaken-no more Aidas, economy being now happily the order of the day.



THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—During the past fortnight the prospects of the cereal crops have changed materially for the worse. Wheat has been prevented from attaining healthy hardness worse. Wheat has been prevented from attaining healthy hardness and ripeness of kernel, owing to the superabundance of rain, while oats and barley have been grievously laid and twisted by the frequent storms. Barley promised to be a really fine crop as regards both quantity and quality, but now there will probably be a disproportionate amount of corn fit for feeding purposes merely; and in the portionate amount of corn fit for feeding purposes merely; and in the case of no other cereal is quality so important to the farmer. If barley comes up to the malling standard, then 42s. to 52s. per quarter can be realised, sometimes 54s. to 56s.; but if is fit for feeding only, then from 25s. to 30s. is the more ordinary range of value, witness the present average price—27s. Id. per quarter. Oats in Ireland and Scotland may still be an average yield, but in England this can hardly now be looked for. The straw, too, is short and rather weak. Hay has been much injured by the rains in all those districts where it remained out at the end of the third week of July. Flax in Ireland promises to be a good crop: but potatoes are developing in Ireland promises to be a good crop; but potatoes are developing disease, and serious anxiety is felt for what promised to be from 25 to 50 per cent. above an average yield. Fruit in the United Kingdom is a comparative failure, and 1880 must no longer be expected to redeem the disasters of last year.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS.—Between the present date and the end of the month will be held the 1)urham Show at Stockton on the 10th, the Chesterfield Show on the 11th, the Royal Irish Show at Clonmel on the 11th, 12th, and 13th, the Dalkeith Show on the 12th, the Southport Show on the 25th, the Tarporley Show at Chester on the same day, the Shropshire Show at Wellington on the 27th, and the Halifax Show on the 28th brings the list of noteworthy shows to a conclusion. The curious fortnight's lull from the 12th to the 25th of August seems a waste of possible and indeed probable fine days.

THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY have recently held a show at Kelso. It was a dismal failure. The comic Press are wont to represent Highlanders as enjoying rain; but they did not enjoy the Kelso show. Rain it did with national persistency, and the attendance was checked far more thoroughly than at Carlisle, where a courageous 90,000 dared all the "weather" which foreigners say we have in lieu of "climate,"

PIGEONS.—On the 25th of July a pigeon started from London at six in the morning, and arrived at Cologne exactly at twelve, thus "doing" the distance in six hours.

Dogs.—Professor Mivart has recently pointed out that dogs seldom reach fifteen years, hardly ever twenty years of age; while wolves and other allied animals live much longer. Does civilisation then, in certain cases, tend to shorten life?

BEES cannot take in food at a lower temperature than 56° Fahr., and should never be fed during winter. The hives should be so placed that the bees get morning but no afternoon sun.

POTATOES.—Disease has shown itself in Norfolk, Somersetshire, and several other localities, and the recent weather has been favourable to its development. In Lincolnshire and the midland counties large tracts of potato-planted land were flooded by the storms at the end of July. The floods subsided, but the potatoes have rotted in the ground. With the exception of local mishaps, however, over an average potato crop is promised throughout the however, over an average potato crop is promised throughout the United Kingdom. The haulm has grown very luxuriously, but United Kingdom. the tubers are also large.

WILD BIRDS IN IRELAND .--The Earl of Dartrey has done well in calling attention to the systematic disregard shown in Ireland to the various Acts for the preservation of wild birds and sea fowl. Where human life is frequently taken "unlawfully," the police have apparently deemed wild birds one of those very small things about which the law is supposed not to care. They should be reminded of the incorrectness of this view of the case.

LA PETITE CULTURE.—At a recent agricultural meeting at Biggleswade, Mr. James Howard, M.P., delivered a thoughtful and interesting speech mainly on this subject. He warned experimentalists about the difficulties attendant on an introduction of small holdings, especially the outlay involved in the inevitable building of small detached homesteads. Mr. James Howard finally advocated making the best of the present system, and the abandon-ment of the idea that a new system was needed before agriculture could flourish. These words from an advanced Liberal will have a good deal of weight.

Hors.—Mould has made, and is making, sad havoc among the hop gardens. Mr. Austen, of Otham Old Farm, near Maidstone, claims to have found a remedy for mould in a liquid application to the stock, but his pretensions are not generally accepted. We think that the various diseases affecting hops and the best means of remedying them might be made the subject of a prize competition among analysts and others.

CLIFTON.—We are glad to hear that the railway scheme to which we alluded last week is not likely to be carried further. The owners of the Clifton Rocks have absolutely refused to entertain any proposals.

BEDDING-OUT PLANTS .-- A determined attack is being made upon the system of bedding-out plants, Geum montanum and plants which do not lend themselves to other than a wild unfettered growth are advocated in lieu of the geraniums, lobelias, and calceolarias so favoured by the prim gardener. The tendency towards the cultivation of wilder and hardier plants seems to us a healthy one, yet lines of colour have their own charm, and can be used with effect in window decoration, for outlining lawns, &c., and in various ways where "the natural" must fail to meet wants which if artificial are also artistic.



THE EXTRADITION ACT has now been extended to the Transaal, an Order-in-Council to that effect having just been published in the Gazette.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S SEAT IN PARLIAMENT .application was made before Master Manley Smith, in Chambers, to strike out or cause to be amended the plaintiff's statement of claim in the action brought against Mr. Bradlaugh, M.P., by Mr. Clarke, to recover a penalty of 500%, alleged to be payable by Mr. Bradlaugh for having sat and voted in the House of Commons without having taken the oath. The Master, after hearing the arguments, said that the whole of the statement of claim must be amended within a week, or struck out.

AN EXTRAORDINARY WILL was the subject of an application in the Chancery. Division of the High Court of Justice on Saturday. The testator willed that the chief part of his property, real

and personal, should be left to accumulate, at compound interest, for a period of twenty-one years, after which the rents and profits should be paid to his heir for life, or to his descendants. The heir is now nearly fifty years old, and would therefore reach the proverbial three-score and ten before deriving any benefit from the estate, but the 10,000L per year would by that time have grown in the cook. The provinciation was that the heir. Sir H. Havelockestate, but the 10,000l per year would by that time have grown into 300,000l. The application was that the heir, Sir H. Havelock-Allan, might receive 2,700l. a year out of the rents, or be appointed manager of the estates with that amount of salary. The Vice-Chancellor said that the will was a very absurd one, but the point Chancellor said that the will was a very absurd one, but the point raised was so doubtful that with every wish to comply with the application he could not see his way to sanction it. If any authority could be shown in support he would cheerfully follow it, but unfortunately the testator had acted within his legal right. Ultimately the case was postponed until November, and his lordship suggested that in the meantime 1,500% should be at once paid to Sir H. Havelock-Allan, without prejudice to any decision which might be arrived at when the case were fully arrived. when the case was fully argued.

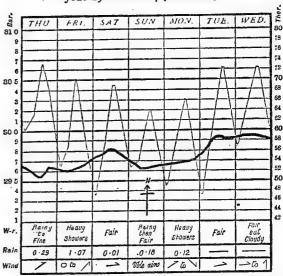
when the case was fully argued.

A STRANGE CASE has just been disposed of at the Liverpool Assizes. The plantiff was a lady who formerly kept an hotel at Salford, and her son-in-law, one Edward Bent, who kept one at Llandudno, becoming apprehensive of his creditors, had given the defendant, Thomas Shaw, a "friendly" or sham bill of sale. After this had been done, Shaw frightened Bent away, by telling him that a warrant was out against him for bigamy, and then went to the plaintiff's room at night, pulled her out of bed by her leg, and forced her to give up a promissory note for 50%; and he subsequently had the furniture and liquors in the hotel sold, in spit of the plaintiff's notice of objection. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff with regard to the furniture and promissory note, and awarded her 100% damages for the assault committed upon her. During the hearing of the case, it was stated that Bent had contracted a second marriage with the knowledge of his first wife, who had also entered into a bigamous alliance.

Breach of Promise.—The case of Roper v. Bagley deserves

Breach of Promise.—The case of Roper v. Bagley deserves notice on account of the plaintiff, a farmer's daughter aged forty, being probably the first woman who can make the sad boast of having been successful in two breach of promise actions. Some ten years ago she brought an action against a farmer and received 100% damages, and she has now obtained a verdict for 80% against a second quondam suitor, who is the son of a grocer. It is a rather singular coincidence that in each case the lover began to grow cool after a courtship of four years.

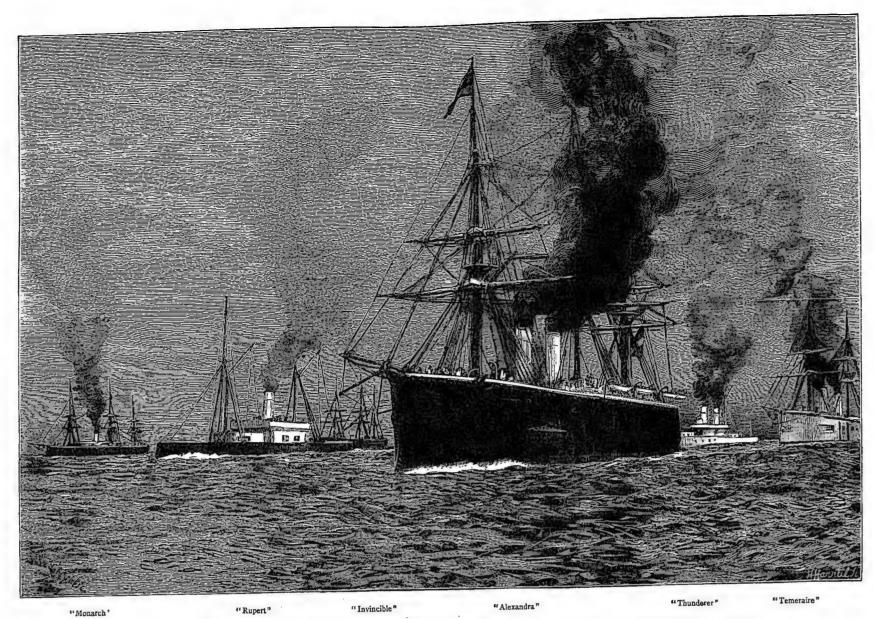
#### WEATHER CHART FOR THE WEEK TULY 29 TO AUG. 4 (INCLUSIVE).



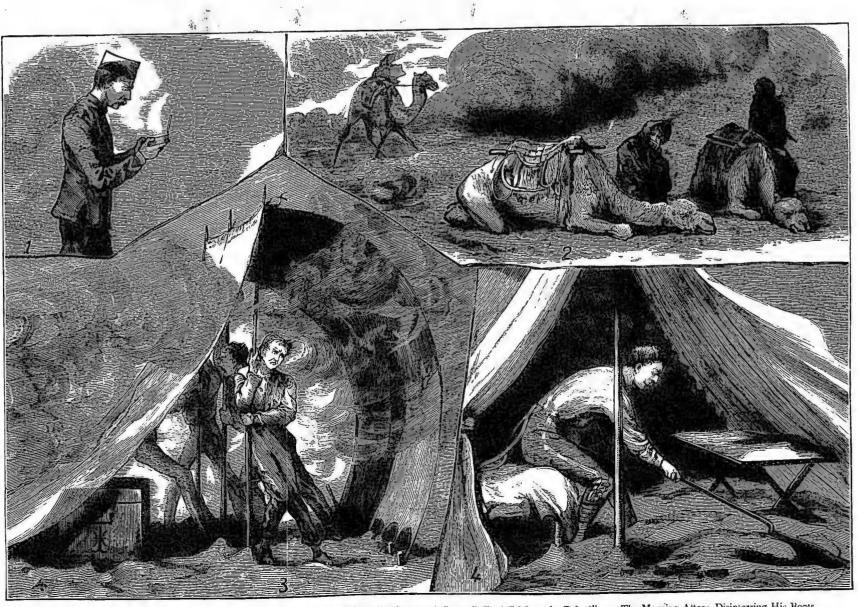
EXPLANATION.— The thick line shows the variations in the height of the Ba ometer during the past week ending Wednesday midnight. The fine line shows the shade temperature for the same interval, and gives the maximum and minimum readings for each day, with the (approximate) time at which they occurred. The information is furnished to us by the Meteorological Office.

REMARKS.—The weather is still in a showery, close, and unsettled state, and rain has fallen on five days out of the seven which comprise the period under notice. On Friday morning (30th ult.) some very heavy rain occurred, and the amount collected, augmented by some further sharp showers that fell in the course of the day, was as much as roy inches. On Saturday (31st inst.) the weather was tolerably fair, the amount of rain for the day being only o'ro inches, but on Sunday and Monday (1st and and inst.) some further decided falls were reported, bringing the total for the week up to 167 inches. Temperature has varied with the amount of cloud; on Thursday (20th ult.), during some hours of bright sunshine, it rose to 32°, and on Tuesday (3rd inst.) under similar conditions, to 72°, but the heavy clouds of Sunday (1st inst.) prevented the thermometer from rising above 64°, and on Monday (and inst.) it did not exceed 66°. The winds have been very light all the week, and generally from points between W. and S.W. The barometer is still very unsteady, and there are as yet no signs whatever of any permanent change in the weather. The barometer was highest (29 33 inches) on Wednesday (4th inst.); lowest (27°) on Thursday (29th ult.); range, 0.40 inches. Temperature in the shade was highest (73°) on Thursday (29th ult.); lowest (47°) on Saturday (31st ult.) and Tuesday (3rd inst.) range, 26°. Rain foll on five days. Total amount, r'67 inches. Greatest fall on any one day (107 inches), on Friday (30th ult.).

"SELF-MADE" Dogs .-- If dogs could talk and record their "Self-Made" Dogs.——If dogs could talk and record their experiences, who shall say how many of them might make out as fair a claim to being "self-made," as it is termed, as scores of their masters? It is but natural, perhaps, that amongst them would be some who, vitiated by biped bad example,—ungrateful dogs of the Gradgrind breed, would be ready lyingly to conceal and ignore the advantages they originally derived from being bred of honest parents and a reputable kennel; but, on the other hand, there are doubtless a very large number who might truthfully boast of having made their own way in the world, and attained a respectable and trusted a very large number who might truthituly boast of having made their own way in the world, and attained a respectable and trusted position in life by dint solely of sheer pluck and perseverance. To discover ample evidence of this it will be necessary only to pay a visit to the Metropolitan Cattle Market. There will be found many dozens of dogs whose owners are drovers; but it is a mistake to suppose that the canine crew are all "sheep-dogs," according to the meaning of that term as generally accepted. The sheep-dog is too well-known to need describing here. At all events, every schoolboy knows that what is called a sheep-dog is not a straighthaired, club-tailed, crop-eared cur with an unshapely body and possibly bandy forelegs. Nevertheless, it is true that one in ten at possibly bandy forelegs. Nevertheless, it is true that one in ten at least of the vigilant type, who, with their masters, ply at the Market for a livelihood, is of this vulgar and nondescript kind. It needs no more than a single glance to convince the observer that such dogs are endowed with no more instinctive talent as sheep-tenders than for Mount St. Bernard duties, and it is out of the question to suppose that it was in consequence of a fancy that, judging from his appearance, he, the gutter-bred cur, had "something in him" that the drover took kindly to him, and taught him his business. More likely if the driver of sheep or oven discovered such an unlikelylooking brute meddling with his charges he would reward him with a warning whack with his ash stick. It is the more to the credit of the willing and intelligent cur that with such obstacles to overcome he is victorious to the end. Give a dog credit for the wonderful brain power he occasionally displays, and it is easy enough to (Continued on page 150.)



TURKEY AND THE POWERS-THE BRITISH FLEET AT VILLA FRANCA



I. "Here's a Pretty Go! My Compass has got stuck!"—2. Camels Making Ready.—3. A Sepoy Pall: "Stick to the Poles!"—4. The Morning After: Disinterring His Boots,

A DUST STORM IN INDIA



DRAWN BY LUKE FILDES, A.R.A.

That instant the figure sprang upon him, and grappled with him in deadly silence.

## LORD BRACKENBURY: A Novel

BY AMELIA B. EDWARDS,

Author of "Barbara's History," "Debenham's Vow," &c.

#### CHAPTER XLVI.

UNDER THE DARK ARCHWAY

"I CAN hardly believe that it was not a dream!"

It was La Giulietta who spoke. Her uncle, tired after his day's work, had dropped asleep in his chair. The lovers were out upon the balcony, talking about Venice. It was a little after eight in the evening. The sky was dark overhead; and, save some empty vetturas, the yard below was deserted. Old Anita, with her brazier and her three-legged stool, had cleared out long ago from under the archway; the business of the trattoria was over for the day; and only here and there between attic and basement was a lighted window to be seen; for already most of the lodgers in the Osteria dell Cappello were gone to bed.

"Wait till you have seen Venice by moonlight," replied Donato; "then, indeed, you will say it must be a dream. What I like is to take a gondola, and go about the side canals at night, gliding silently out of darkness into light, and back again into darkness. Everything is ghostly. You round a corner, and something splashes into the water behind you—it seems as if a murder might have been done. You pass under a balcony, and hear voices in stealthy conversation; or under a lighted window, and listen to a woman singing within. Every house seems full of mystery—every gondola you meet seems to carry a secret."

"I don't think I should like it," said the girl. "I should be afraid."

"Not if I were with you, dear?"

"Ah, no—not with you."

"You would go anywhere, and feel safe anywhere, with me?"

"Anywhere!" "I CAN hardly believe that it was not a dream!"

of Sweden and Norway, where you will see whales spouting in deep water, and seals sunning themselves on the sands. And at one

"You would go anywhere, and feel safe anywhere, with me?"
"Anywhere!"

"Anywhere!"
"There are so many places to which I should like to take you—
ay, and to which I will take you, by and by. Beautiful islands,
where ferns grow to the size of trees, and palm-woods peopled with
monkeys and parrots come down to the water's edge. Some of
these are coral islands, built up from the bottom of the sea by
myriads of tiny insects. Those are places in which winter is
unknown. Then in summer we will steer northwards, to the coasts
of Sweden and Norman, where you will see whales spouting in deep place to which I will take you, you shall behold the sun shining at midnight. You can hardly believe that? Yet it is true."

"How much you know!" she said. "How much you have seen!"

"A sailor cannot help picking up scraps of knowledge by the way. We do not go to sea with our eyes shut."
"Ah, but you have education!"

"I can read and write, and keep my log and my ledgers."

The girl shook her head.
"You know Latin," she said, "and other foreign tongues printed in strange letters that I never saw till I looked at your books the other day."

"What of that? I am a trader, and my business takes me to foreign ports where I should be badly off indeed if I could not make myself understood. Besides, like yourself, I am fond of reading; and at sea, with plenty of leisure, it would be hard if I could not manage to be learning something."

She listened; she sighed.
"It is not that," she said. "It is not what you have taught yourself, or what you have picked up. You are a scholar. Your—your mother was a lady. Nay, I am a poor, ignorant girl; but in this I cannot be deceived. I saw it in her portrait. She was not one of us—nor are you."

one of us—nor are you."
"You know me for what I am—a trader: a man of the people!"
"No; you are—a gentleman."
"And supposing I were a prince," he said lightly; "what

"And supposing I were a prince," he said lightly; "what then?"

"I should be too far beneath you—as I am now."

"Why, Giulietta mia! Why, carina—what folly is this?"

He caught her in his arms; he kissed her eyes, and found them wet with tears.

"You are a cillu child," he wild "You man a Wing and you."

wet with tears.

"You are a silly child," he said. "If I were a King, and you loved me, your love would make you my equal! But I am not a King. I am not even 'Romeo and a Montague.' I am simple Cesare Donato, who loves you with all his heart, and loves you for all Listen, dearest—I am respectably born—rather more so, perhaps, than most men of my station; and you are right in believing that I have received a tolerably good education. But do you suppose that I want a learned wife? Should I love you one jot better if you.

"No, but -"But what?"

"I fear you will love me less by-and-by, if—if you are ashamed of me.

ot me."

"My Giulietta," said her lover, seriously, "you may be quite sure that I know my own mind, and that I shall never change. I am older than you by many years—some might say, perhaps, that I am too old and too grave for one so young as yourself—so young and so bright! But old as I am, you are my first love."

"Am I? Am I, indeed?"

"My first, dear; and my last. With me, it is once and for ever."

"Once and for ever!" she repeated, nestling closer within his arm.

"And never—never again—tell me that I could be ashamed of you. How could I be anything but proud of the woman I love! How could I love her, if I was not proud of her?"

"But I am only a poor girl," she whispered. "I have no knowledge—no manners. When your friends see me..."

"I have no friends," he interrupted, quickly. "Or rather, I have but one—that one of whom I told you the other day. You need not be afraid of him; he is an old man, learned as one of the Fathers of the Church, and simple as a child."

"But you have relations?"

"Well, I have cousins; but I have not seen them for many years. You know how it is with relations. If one is brought up with them from childhood, the tie is close and real; but when families are scattered and the young ones grow up apart, then relationship ceases to be a tie, and is forgotten. That is my case. Those distant relatives may be dead, for aught I know—I should hardly remember them if I saw them; and I am sure they would not remember me."

"I have relations whom I have never even seen," said the girl; "my Aunt Francesca and her family. She lives near Naples, at a place called San Lorenzo. She is a widow, and has a farm of her own, and a family of three daughters and four sons. I should dearly like to see her, and my seven unknown cousins."

"I will take you there, carina, if you like, when we go for our wedding cruise. No—don't thank me. Whatever pleases you, makes me happy."

"You must not indulge me too much," she said. "You will spoil me."

spoil me.'

He passed his hand caressingly over her hair.

"I had always meant to take you to Naples and Sicily for that first trip, my darling. And I have been thinking, too, how we will make you comfortable on board the *Diamante*. I mean to shift my first mate to a berth amid-ships, and turn his present cabin into a sort of dressing room and counting-house for myself. Then we will have a way the partition between my own two little cabins, and knock away the partition between my own two little cabins, and make a good state-room for you. Mind, I expect my little wife to be a good sailor! She will have to go round the world with me."

A vettura drawn by a white horse came jolting under the archway, and drew up in the middle of the yard. The girl had shrunk back at the first sound of wheels; but seeing the old white horse, she was reassured, and went on talking. 'Tonio Moretti's

horses were both bays.

"How long would it take to go round the world?" she asked.

"In a sailing vessel?—impossible to tell. Much would depend on her length of stay in foreign ports, and still more on wind and weather. However, I don't propose that we shall literally

circumnavigate the globe, carina; but only that you shall make "But what would become of Uncle Stefano?"

"But what would become of Uncle Stefano?"

"He can come too, if he likes. We have accommodation enough

and to spare."

"As if Uncle Stefano would go to sea! Yet how lone'y he would be here in Verona!"

"Yerona? He has worked long enough.

would be here in Verona? "
"Why need he stay in Verona? He has worked long enough.
It is time he took life more easily. What if he came to Bari? I have a house there, you know, and a bit of land. I have let the land, hitherto; and as for the house, I have only lived in it for a few weeks at a time, twice or thrice in the year. Now I am going to furnish it, and make it pretty for you; and if your uncle would live with us and farm the land for me, I would take it back into my own hands. How would that be, think you?"

She thought of course, that nothing could be better. It was but

She thought, of course, that nothing could be better. It was but the other day that he said how he would fain sit in the shade of his own vine, and eat polenta of his own growing; and would not this be almost the same thing?

be almost the same thing?

The vetturino in the yard, meanwhile, had taken his horse out of the traces, and led him into the stable. And now they could hear the other horses whinnying a welcome to their comrade, and the vetturino whistling, and moving to and fro. In the street outside, all was as quiet as at midnight.

"Tell me about your house at Bari," she said, her cheek resting against his shoulder. "Is it an old house? Were you born there?"

egainst his shoulder.

"It is a little white house, carina; neither very new nor very old; and I certainly was not born there, for I bought it only two or three years ago. It was just a sailor's fancy; for when a man is knocking about the ocean, he likes to know that there is a rood or condend and his own, on which he can set foot when he comes knocking about the ocean, he likes to know that there is a rood or so of dry land all his own, on which he can set foot when he comes ashore. Well, the house stands high, on a terrace looking to the sea. It has a pergola in front; and on the terrace there grows a palm-tree—a real African palm. The hill-side is covered with vines and olive-gardens; and down below, on a jutting promontory, washed on three sides by the bluest sea in the world, lies the great white town, with its castle, and its cathedral, and its barbour full white town, with its castle, and its cathedral, and its harbour full of shipping.

"It must be as beautiful as Venice!" "Ah, no—there is but one Venice. Yet—"Yet what?"

"Yet what?"
He leaned over the balcony, and looked round the yard.
"I fancied I heard a sound underneath," he said; "as if some one was listening."
"Perhaps it was Monna Teresa shaking out her cloth after supper. Her balcony is just below ours."
"Very likely. At all events, she is not there now."
"And you were saving——"

"And you were saying——"
"Well, I was saying that Eari is not like Venice. But it is a bright and busy place, in a land of sunshine and plenty; and I think your Uncle Stefano, smoking his pipe at sunset in that little pergola——"
"What about me?" asks the wheelwright, waking with a start.
"A plot, little uncle!"
"A plot, little uncle!"

"A plot to starve me, eh? Do you know what o'clock it is, my

"A plot to starve me, eh? Do you know what o'clock it is, my little girl? Twenty minutes past ninc, and no supper ready!"

So La Giulietta lurries in to spread the table; and presently they are all sitting together at their evening meal—a meal literally of Attic simplicity, consisting of bread, salad, salted olives, a kind of sweet cake made with chestnut flour, and a measure of country wine in a wicker-flask. For Cesare Donato is now become as one of themselves, and partakes their ordinary fare.

While at supper, he leads back to the subject of Bari. To-morrow he must go to Venice, to ship part of his cargo; thence to Trieste, and from Trieste to Smyrna; touching at Bari by the way, in order to set a builder to work upon the repairing of his house. He will be gone not less than a month—possibly as long as five weeks. In the meanwhile (assuming, as a matter of course, that they are to live together as one family) the question to be settled is, whether Uncle Stefano will undertake to farm the land?

To this, the wheelwright, though inwardly flattered, replies with

Stefano will undertake to farm the land?

To this, the wheelwright, though inwardly flattered, replies with a string of objections. He has lived all his days in Verona, and is too old to be pulled up by the roots. He has no mind, at his age, to live under another man's roof. Besides, what should a fellow who has been making wheels all his life, understand about farming?

"How much land have you?" he asks, presently.

"Very little—about sixty acres, planted with olives and almonds."

"Vou call that 'very little' do you? I call it a great deal. And

"You call that 'very little,' do you? I call it a great deal. And as for growing olives and almonds, I know as much about that work as you know about fitting spokes to a nave. No, thank you! I'll neither spoil your crops, nor make a fool of myself. But I'll tell you what I will do, if you will like it. Find me some little place near by—anything with four walls and a roof, and half-a-dozen acres of land that I could till with my own two hands—and I'll end my dows there and he content." days there, and be content.

I will build you a house, and let you six acres of my own land,"

"I will build you a house, and let you six acres of my own land," said Donato.

But the old man would hear of no compromise. His mind was made up. He would not hire; he would buy. To own "a bit of land," to cultivate it himself, to eat "polenta of his own growing," had been the patient ambition of his life, and he would not be baulked of it. The Italian peasant nature, the deeply-rooted love of the soil for the soil's sake, was strong within him.

"Find me that," he said, "and I shall be happier than a king; and it will be for your children, when I die."

So Donato promised to find it, and the thing was settled.

The lovers were long saying their last words that night in the passage. They would not meet again for many weeks; and it was their first parting.

"It is a foolish thing to ask," said Donato; "but I want you, dear, to give me something that you have touched, or worn—a glove, a flower—anything—no matter what!"

She left him for a moment, and came back with a book in

her hand.

"It is old and worthless," she said; "but it was my mother's. And there is not a page of it that I have not read a hundred times over." It was a thin volume in a parchment cover, dog-eared, and broken, and yellow with age. It had once had a clasp. The rivet-

broken, and yellow with age. It had once had a clasp. The rivetholes were there; but the clasp was gone.

He glanced at the title-page.

"You call this worthless? Why it is Luigi da Porto's History of Two Noble Lovers—the rare original edition of Romeo and Giulietta! You must not give me this—it is too valuable."

"If it is valuable, so much the better," she replied, simply. "I give it to you because it is precious to me—and I love you."

He kissed the book, and put it in the breat-pocket of his pilot-

He kissed the book, and put it in the breast-pocket of his pilot-

coat.
"Then I accept it. And what shall I give you?"

"That silver ring upon your finger."

"This? It is too rough and ugly, and has too sad a history. It belonged to an Abyssinian slave; and it was sold to me by his owner, in the slave-market at Alexandria. Besides, I will not give

you a ring, till I put the wedding ring on your finger."
"Why so? I know two girls who are betrothed; and their lovers have each given them a ring."

"Well, sailors are superstitious; and I should look upon it as a bad omen. No, my darling—I cannot give you a ring; but I will kring you a bracelet from Smyrna. In the meanwhile, take this

little seal. I have worn it for years on my watch-chain; and see—it is engraved with a dog's head. That means 'Fidelity.'"
"I will put it on a ribbon, and wear it day and night till you come back."

He took both her hands in his.

"And remember, I shall look for letters at every port—Trieste, Smyrna." Che! che! Don't be out there all night, saying good-bye!"

shouted the wheelwright, testily.
"He is right. The longer one lingers, the harder it is to part!

God bless you, my darling."

"I cannot bear you to go," she said, clinging to him.

"And I cannot bear to leave you!"

He folded her in his arms; he kissed her with many kisses.

"My Giulietta, good bye."

"No property a minute longer—my love, my Romeo!

"No, no—not yet—a minute longer—my love, my Romeo!"

He kissed her once again—put her from him—shut the door

quickly, and was gone!

quickly, and was gone!

For a moment, she stood listening to the rapid ring of his footfall growing fainter down the stairs; then crept away to her own little room; cowered down in the dark; and wept silently.

It was a wide, stone staircase, dimly lighted here and there. Donato ran down quickly. But there was an unaccustomed lump in his throat, that made him stop for a moment at the bottom, and draw a deep heath. draw a deep breath.

"Poor little thing!"

He brushed his hand across his eyes. Man-like, he was impatient of his pain, and half-ashamed of it. So he told himself that he was pitying his little Giulietta, while in truth he was pitying Cesare Donato.

Donato.

Then he took out a cigarette, and crossed the courtyard; intending to borrow a light from the Madonna, before whose shrine a feeble wick was burning. Now beside the little lamp there stood a broken tumbler containing a handful of faded flowers; and these flowers caught his eye, just as he was about to touch the flame with the end of his cigarette. He recognised some of the orchids and edelweiss that he had sent her nearly a fortnight ago. And this was what she had done! Poor child!

Touched by the artless piety of the little offering, he put back his cigarette. To light it so would be sacrilege in her eyes; and though he smiled at his own weakness, he forebore for her sake. Then he looked up at her balcony; but old Stefano was already gone to his room, and in the window there was no light. All the house was dark. The empty vetturas stood in the middle of the yard; the osteria was shut up; the stable-door was locked for the night.

osteria was shut up; the stable-door was locked for the night.
To linger was idle; so, buttoning his coat over the old book she
had given him, he turned towards the street.

nad given nim, ne turned towards the street.

It was dark in the yard, and darker still under the archway. Yet amid that depth of blackness, the seaman's keen sight seemed to detect something—something that was not mere shadow. Was it a projection of the masonry? Was it a man standing up flat against

Whistling carelessly, but keeping his eye upon this unknown object, he went on unhesitatingly. That instant the figure sprang upon him—grappled with him in deadly silence—and rolled with him on the ground.

#### CHAPTER XLVII.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE IN BAVARIA

A CHRISTMAS meeting at Pastor Kreutzmann's-so homely, so A CHRISTMAS meeting at Pastor Kreutzmann's—so homely, so hearty, so hospitable—more resembled a clan-gathering in some Tyrolean farmstead than an evening party within the charmed circle of Munich society. For Munich society—governed by a Draconian law of etiquette, and stultified by the religious observance of a code of infinitely minute formalities—was at that time one of the most artificial in Europe. It oscillated between the extremes of servility and insolence; and it reproduced, at all events in its three or four uppermost strata, the stilted absurdities of Versailles two hundred and insolence; and it reproduced, at all events in its three or four uppermost strata, the stilted absurdities of Versailles two hundred years before. Bred under a despotism of precedence and educated in an atmosphere of petty ceremonial, the upper-class Bavarian of that mimic Court was as learned in matters of genealogy as the Gotha Almanack, and as skilled in the art of bowing as Sir Pertinax Macsycophant. He spent his life in the feverish pursuit of a decoration, a promotion, or a place; and if half-a-century of toadyism chanced to be at last rewarded with the office of Deputy-Assistant-Court-Bootjack-in-Waiting, he was forthwith translated to the seventh heaven of gratified ambition, and died content.

It need scarcely be said that a society composed of Deputy-Assistant-Court-Boot-jack-in-Waiting, their patrons, clients, wives,

Assistant-Court-Boot-jacks-in-Waiting, their patrons, clients, wives, families, and friends—a society built up circle above circle, clique within clique, each duller, stiffer, more purgatorial than the one next below it—was not only the most artificial but the most portentously exclusive that our century has beheld. A stranger armed with a diplomatic introduction—above all, a stranger with a title—could obtain admission to its dismal coteries without much difficulty. Lancelot Lord Brackenbury, for instance, might have spent his Christmas Eve in any of the most jealously guarded saloons of Munich—nay, at the Royal Palace itself, had he been so minded; but to a "Von"-less Eavarian gentleman, no matter how well educated or well mannered, the social platform one step above his own was as hopelessly inaccessible as Mecca to a Giaour. As for the simple Kreutzmann family, they were as much beyond the pale of what was called "society" as if they belonged to some savage tribe unweaned from flint implements and bone-carvings.

tribe unweaned from flint implements and bone-carvings.

Yet the Kreutzmanns themselves, in common with the honest Baïrische middle-class to which they belonged, believed quite innocently and devoutly in the sublime infallibility of all these little Chamberlains, Marshals, Gold Sticks, High-Stewards, Equerries, and other Court functionaries who revolved at such an immeasurable distance above their heads. To them a Deputy-Assistant-Court-Bootjack-in-Waiting was invested with almost superhuman dignity; while the King and the ex-King, the Queen, the Princes, the Princesses, and all the Royal and Serene Highnesses of the family, down to their august seventy-times-seventh cousins thrice removed. down to their august seventy-times-seventh cousins thrice removed, were godlike beings of whom it would be treason to suppose that were compounded of merely mortal clay, or liable to such

cracks and breakages as plebeian pottery is heir to.

And now Frau Kreutzmann's Christmas gathering was actually graced by the presence of a real, live English "Herr Baron," as godlike, as gifted, as superior to humanity in general as any native luminary whose titles were to be found in the Bavarian Court Guide. Surely the good soul would have been more than mortal, if she had not felt a flutter of honest pride when that same Herr luminary Baron led her niece Kätchen out for the first waltz, and engaged the hand of Brenda for the second!

the hand of Brenda for the second!

"You see him? He who danced just now with our Kätchen—that is the Herr Baron. He lodges at the Hotel Maulick. He is betrothed to Fraülein Winifred. That is she—that fair maiden sitting yonder in the corner of the room. She does not dance to-night—she is in too deep mourning. She only looks on. Beautiful?—I should think so, indeed! Beautiful and gentle as an angel! She is living with us for the winter—about to study in Herr Krüger's atelier. She is an orphan, and has lately lost her last blood relation—a dear, sweet child! Already she is like one of ourselves. I don't know what we shall do when it comes to parting from her relation—a dear, sweet clind: Arready sine is like one of ourselves. I don't know what we shall do when it comes to parting from her—Kätchen and Brenda will break their hearts. For how long, do you ask? Ah, that I cannot say. A year was talked about; but who knows? Perhaps they will marry before then. They will make a

he owns estates as big as all Suabia!"

Repeating the same little story in almost the same words, Frau Kreutzmann went round among her guests; whereupon each plump Frau in succession held up her hands, opened her eyes as wide as possible, and (varying the ejaculation more or less profancly) exclaimed:—

"Ach Himmel! Varyable to the noblest of the noble! 'Tis said

"Ach, Himmel! You don't say so, Cousin Lisbeth!—A Herr Baron! And what is his most high lordship's name and title?"

To which Frau Kreutzmann, with as near an approach to the English as her tongue could frame, replied:—

"The Herr Baron, Lord Brankenburg."

The Herr Baron, Lord Brankenburg."

"The Herr Baron, Lord Brankenburg."

The younger guests were even more interested and more inquisitive than their elders. The girls gathered round Kätchen and Brenda, asked innumerable questions, and listened open-mouthed to all that was told them. Had the Herr Baron a Castle in England? Why was he not in uniform? Why did he wear no ribbons or decorations? Was the beautiful Frailein also noble? Had she "the florins?" Was she fond of him? Did he adore her? When were they to be married? Most interesting of all was the fact that these illustricing married? Most interesting of all was the fact that these illustrious

strangers were but just engaged.
"It is a romance!" sighed a stout damsel, whose two long plaits of magnificent flaxen hair hung down her back, tied with blue ribbons. "But will there be no betrothal-feast? No cards? No announcement in the Court Zeitung?"

To which Kätchen and Brenda replied that the Herr Baron and

Fraülein Winifred wished their engagement to be as private as possible; that, in fact, the Herr Baron was going back to England at the end of the week.

at the end of the week.

It was strictly a family party, and consisted of relations only. There was the Pastor's only brother, who kept a school at Weilheim, and there were Frau Kreutzmann's three married sisters with their husbands and families; to say nothing of half-a-dozen maiden aunts, besides nephews, nieces, and cousins innumerable. Most of these good folks were farmers from the neighbourhood of Partenkirche and the Walchenses, one or two were timber merchants, but the the Walchensee; one or two were timber merchants; but the most important personage of the family was a certain great uncle, who was a brewer and burgomaster of Starnberg, and who was reputed to be worth a hundred thousand florins. In short there must have been nearly a hundred guests assembled that evening under Pastor Kreutzmann's roof.

The elder women, with scarcely an exception, wore gowns of rich black silk or satin, with sleeves puffed at the top and narrow at the wrists, little shawls of coloured silk or lace, and caps and aprons the wrists, little shawls of coloured silk or lace, and caps and aprons trimmed with old yellow blonde; while two very old ladies, who came all the way from the borders of the Bavarian Forest, appeared in turban-like head-dresses of dark moleskin. One or two of the younger damsels who lived in the town and aspired to be fashionable, were dressed in white muslin trimmed with gay ribbons; but the rost like Kötchen and Brenda, wore the picturesque short chir the rest, like Kätchen and Brenda, wore the picturesque short skirt and embroidered cap which now only survives in rural districts, and, like most national costumes, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

The guests amused themselves after the manner of middle-class

The guests amused themselves after the manner of middle-class Germans in general and Bavarians in particular. That is to say, the elder men congregated in a room apart, smoking and beerdrinking. The young people danced in the best parlour, which was cleared for the occasion; and the married women sat round and looked on. A couple of violins, two clarionets and a flute, made excellent music in the passage outside; while every now and then between the waltzes, a part-song would be sung by four or eight voices, or some skilled performer would "oblige the company" with a solo on the zither. with a solo on the zither.

A nation that dines at mid-day, goes to the theatre at four, and A nation that dines at initi-day, goes to the hierare at four, and comes home to supper at eight, issues its invitations naturally enough for evening parties at five. Frau Kreutzmann's guests all arrived at that primitive hour. The business of the evening was inaugurated with coffee, cakes, and beer; dancing began a little before six; and, because on Christmas Eve late hours were excusable, the supper was put off till ten. But the great event of the evening, after all, was Frau Kreutzmann's Christmas-Tree excusable, the supper was put off till ten. But the great event of the evening, after all, was Frau Kreutzmann's Christmas-Tree—that Christmas-Tree which for the last three days had been locked up in a room by itself, unseen by any eyes save those of Kätchen and Brenda, who were deputed to decorate it. This Christmas-Tree was the good Frau's invariable coup de tháttre; and her guests knew perfectly well that it was sure to be forthcoming. Nevertheless, it was de rigueur to affect entire ignorance of the impending event

theless, it was de rigueur to affect entire ignorance of the impending event.

"We have a little surprise in store for you, by and by," says Frau Kreutzmann, first to one and then to another. "Aha! you will see! Wait till half-an-hour before supper—you will see!"

Whereupon the nephew or cousin so addressed, puts on a puzzled

face, and professes all the wonder proper to the occasion.

In the meanwhile, dancing went on apace; each waltz ending in

Bavarian fashion with a thunderous stamp, sometimes accompanied by a loud "Hah!" in which all the performers united. The Herr Baron, having done his devoir by his host's two nieces, retired from the field, and became a spectator for the rest of the evening. It may be that he found these solid Bavarian damsels more interesting from an artistic point of view, than light in hand to dance with

"Does this amuse you?" he asked, standing beside Winifred's chair. The couples were just pairing off for something like the eleventh

waltz of the evening.

"Very much. They dance so well; and the music is charming."

"Doesn't it make you wish to take a turn also?"

"I?" she said, smiling. "I, who never learned to dance—who have never seen dancing till to-night? You forget what a barbarian

"Put it the other way, and say that I forgot you were so highly civilised. What is dancing, but a survival of barbarism—like tattooing, or the wearing of earrings? Nay, I mean it, You should see how they waltz at some of these village festivals up in the mountain valleys!"

"It must be very pictures are."

It must be very picturesque." "Picturesque?—well, they spin round for hours together, like teetotums; and when they get tired of spinning they extemporise the most amazing variations on the original figure. Sometimes the women will gather in a knot in the centre, linking arms and stamping, while the men leap and slap their thighs; sometimes the men go to the centre, while the women hop round on one leg! It is as wild a piece of savagery as any Maori war-dance. For my own part, I believe that all these popular dances are of remote antiquity. The Albanian Greeks have a sword and musket-dance, which is undoubtedly a survival of the Pyrrhic dance. The Spanish Cachuca came from ancient Egypt, castanets and all. And as for the Neapolitan Tarantella and Saltarello, you have but to come with me to-morrow morning to the Etruscan vase-rooms at the old Pinacothely to see them denicted as they was depend in I time and cothek to see them depicted as they were danced in Latium and

Campania two thousand years ago."

"And that is what you call a survival of barbarism!" said Winifred, indignantly. "Now, to my thinking, it is we who are barbarians and degenerate. If I were an Albanian girl, how proud I should be to see my brother or my lover dance that Pyrrhic dance!"

"Would you not rather go into a corner, and weep for the glory that had become a mere tradition? Would you not ask,

Where is the Pyrrhic Phalanx gone?

Give me rather our Neapolitan Saltarello—a classic survival, if you like; but with nothing of fallen heroism about it."
"What is it, then? What is it like?"

"It is a remnant of the old Bacchic jollities; and the dance, as I said a moment ago, is just like the wild groups on the painted vases.—all wooing and rejecting, flying and pursuing. There is one figure in which the men pair off two and two, hooking their left legs one in the other, and hopping back to back; their partners meanable heating their templourines, and springing into the air like wild one in the other, and hopping back to back; their partners meanwhile beating their tambourines, and springing into the air like wild

Bacchantes

"I should like to see that!"

"I have seen it hundreds of times when I was a boy. We had a villa, you know, at Castellamare, where we spent our winters; and whenever there was a popular festa, some half-a-dozen couples of young men and girls—our own boatmen and their sweethearts generally—would come in costume, and dance for us in the hall. It was a sceneworthpainting—myfatherand mother sitting apart, in two antique carved chairs; the servants peeping over the balustrades of the great staircase; four or five tall, bare-footed fishermen in scarlet woollen caps, standing round with lighted torches; and in the "I should like to see that !" great staircase; four or five fall, bare-footed fishermen in scarlet woollen caps, standing round with lighted torches; and in the centre of the marble floor, the dancers whirling to the music of a couple of mandolines. How plainly I see it! How plainly I see the house, and all its surroundings—the loggia where my mother sat on sunny afternoons—the orange-walk where Cuthbert used to carry me to and fro, when I was a tiny little fellow—the old-fashioned garden, terrace below terrace, with beds laid out in heraldic patterns, where you looked down upon the family coat of arms emblazoned in living flowers!"

"It must have been a beautiful place," said Winifred. "What has become of it?"

"It must have been a beautiful place," said winifed. "What has become of it?"
"I have no idea. It was sold after my mother's death, and I have never been near it since."
"Would you mind taking me to see it some day, Lancelot?" she

A troubled look came into his face.

"I hardly know," he said. "In one way it would be a sad sort of pleasure; but . . ."

"But the pain would be greater than the pleasure! I ought to have known that—I ought not to have asked you! Forget that I said it, Lancelot."

Their talk had become so correct that they found in the pleasure!

Their talk had become so earnest that they forgot all about the waltzers and the scene before their eyes. Now, however, they became aware of a general movement in the direction of the door. It was half past nice o'clock, and the great event of the evening

"Dear Fraillein Winifred," whispered Frau Kreutzmann, with a beaming countenance, "will his Excellency the Herr Baron condescend to come and see our Christmas Tree?"

#### CHAPTER XLVIII.

#### THE KEY OF THE BLUE CLOSET

IT was a Christmas Tree to be proud of. So every one said; and IT was a Christmas Tree to be proud of. So every one said; and so, with modest pride, Frau Kreutzmann told herself, when her guests stood round applauding. It rose ten feet above the tub in which it was planted—a well-grown, sturdy sapling, whose wide-spreading boughs were gay from top to bottom with ribbons, and gifts, and lighted tapers. Never was seen a Christmas Tree so rich in pretty things. Here were presents suited to the needs and tastes of both sexes and all ages, each labelled with the name of the person for whom it was destined—purses, pines, cigar-cases, needle-

in pretty things. Here were presents suited to the needs and tastes of both sexes and all ages, each labelled with the name of the person for whom it was destined—purses, pipes, cigar-cases, needlecases, pencil-cases, pen-knives, work-baskets, hymn-books, carved toys from Ober-Ammergau; staghorn brooches from the Black Forest; embroidered braces, slippers, and Bavarian caps; penholders, seals, paper-knives; beermugs of painted porcelain and Bavarian glass; dolls and tops for such as had children at home; match-boxes, snuff-boxes, musical-boxes; gloves, neckties, ribbons; and even such useful commonplaces as pocket-handkerchiefs and stockings! In short, there was not only a gift for every guest, but there were even gifts for many not actually present.

Great was the handclapping, joyous were the exclamations, round about that Christmas Tree. It was "Schöne!" It was "Wunderschöne!" It was "Unerhört!" Were ever gifts so well chosen! How useful! How pretty! What a sackful of florins it must all have cost! Whose name is that on yonder silver spectacle case! Pastor Kreutzmann's—and from the Herr Baron, too—real silver, and engraved with a cypher! And those beautiful necklaces of amber and ivory, are they also from the Herr Baron, and do they bear the names of Kätchen and Brenda! Ach Himmel! What it is to have a mi-lord for one's friend! And see!—that big Bible with the gilt clasp . . . that is also for the good Pastor, from his nieces. The ebony snuff-box inlaid with mother-of-pearl, is for the geat-uncle—he who is brewer and burgomaster at Starnberg. This powder-flask is for Rudolf Schwerin, who won the first prize at the shooting-match last autumn; Annchen Braun, who is going to be married, has a cuckoo-clock; and the two old ladies from the Bavarian Forest are provided with warm mittens and slippers for winter wear.

Forest are provided with warm mittens and slippers for winter wear.

But of all the treasures that adorned that Christmas-Tree, there But of all the treasures that adorned that Christmas-Tree, there was not one that attracted so much curiosity as a key that hung on the very topmost twig, out of the reach of the tallest. It was a large, ordinary-looking key, with a paper tied to the handle. What key was it? What would it open? For whom was it intended? These were questions that no one seemed able to answer. At last, one youth bolder than the rest, ventured to ask Frau Kreutzmann for what purpose the key was placed there. Kätchen and Brenda looked at each other and smiled. Frau

Kreutzmann rubbed her hands, and nodded mysteriously.
"The key? So!—if any one is curious about the key,"

"The key? So !—if any one is curious about the key," said she, "let him take it down, and see what is written on the label." Thus empowered, the youth fetched an alpenstock with a chamois-horn tip, and hooked the key off in triumph. A dozen hands were immediately held up.

"Nein, nein," said he, "I have taken it down, and I will be the first to read it."

Still memetad on his chair he unfolded the label turned it this

Still mounted on his chair, he unfolded the label, turned it this

way and that, looked blank, and tossed it to the nearest bystander.
"Make what you can of it!" said he.
"'What is it? Latin—French—English?"
"Let me look at it!"
"Ack Under Versiemen !"

"Ask Uncle Kreutzmann!"

"I think it is in English-and that it is for Fraulein Winifred," said the Pastor.

And so it was. A common iron key, not without a touch of rust on the handle—a key some three or four inches long, and addressed in Lancelot's handwriting, "To Miss Savage, for what it may be worth." be worth?

"For me?—'for what it may be worth!' What does it mean?" she asked, confusedly; for all eyes were turned upon her.
"I promised you a Christmas Box," said Lancelot; "and here it is."
"But what am I to do with it? Does it open anything?"

"But what am I to do with it? Does it open anything?" It is the key of the Blue Closet,"
"The Blue Closet?"

"Which, unlike Bluebeard, I give you leave to open."
"I am very grateful; but where is the Blue Closet, and what am "I am very grateful; but where is the Blue Closet, and what am I to do with your six headless wives, when I have opened it?"
"They are yours to deal with as you may think fit. You can sketch them, model them, annihilate them, or bury them. You have but to find the door, turn the key, and take possession."
Smiling and puzzled, Winifred looked from one to another. There was some playful mystery here, and the Kreutzmanns were in the secret.

the secret.

"Kätchen will tell me!" she said.

But Kätchen refused, and no one would enlighten her. She must

search the castle, find the Blue-Closet, and solve the riddla for herself.

Supper being announced, there was now a rush to the dining-Supper being announced, there was now a rush to the dining-room, where a mighty meal was provided. For though wont them-selves to fare with primitive simplicity, the Kreutzmanns knew when and how to be profusely hospitable. At Christmas-time especially, when the good Pastor's kinsfolk were met beneath his roof and the poor thronged about his door, it might with truth be said that-

It snewed in hys house of meate and drinke.

And now, if the feast was Homeric in its plenty, the appetites of And now, it the teast was moment in its plenty, the appetites of the revellers were no less heroic. Mountains of cold veal and sliced voorst perished at the first onslaught; Westphalia hams melted like snow before the sun; cakes of marvellous device vanished like the baseless fabric of a vision; and Baïrische beer flowed as freely as mathealis in the black of Odir. metheglin in the halls of Odin.

At length, when young and old had alike performed prodigies of valour, the party broke up; those who lived in Munich and its environs dispersing to their homes, while those who came from afar were accommodated, some with beds in the house, and others

with lodgings in the town.

Having shown her guests to their several quarters, Frau Kreutzmann prepared to see Winifred up to her room. This was a little act of kindly attention which she and her nieces performed every night as invariably as the clock struck ten. To-night, however, late as it was, they lingered at the foot of the stairs, as if there was comething yet to be done. something yet to be done.

"Are you too tired to go in search of the Blue Closet, liebe Winifred?" said Brenda.

"You would have me believe that there is a Blue Closet?"
"Can you doubt it?" said Frau Kreutzmann. "You have the key."
"Which opens nothing!"
But the girls protested that the key was actually the key of the

Plue Closet; so, humouring what seemed to her a somewhat point-less jest, Winifred suffered herself to be conducted from corridor to corridor, from door to door, always trying the key, and always trying it in vain.

At length their round brought them to Winifred's own door, and Winifred's own door, it will be remembered, was last but one at the extreme end of the upper corridor. Here then her quest must

So there is no Blue Closet, after all!"

"Nay, dear child, you must persevere till you find it!" said Frau Kreutzmann.

"But neither Christine's room nor my own is a Blue Closet; and the end room is empty. How can I persevere farther, unless by going out upon the roof?" Brave heart holds fast to the last; faint heart fails on the thres-

hold," said Kätchen, quoting a Bavarian proverb.
"Why not try the end room?" said Brenda.
"Ah!—it is the end room?"

She was tired; perhaps a little weary of the fruitless jest; but something in Brenda's look and tone roused her curiosity.

The door of the end room was locked. She listened; but all was silent within. Then she tried the key; and for the first time, lock and key fitted.

"Some one is inside!" she said, drawing back quickly.
"No one, dear child."
"But I see a light!"
"What of that? Nay, go in—fear nothing!"

Fear! Did Frau Kreutzmann suppose that she was afraid? Granted that her heart was beating a trifle quicker, it was with anticipation—not fear.

She smiled, turned the handle, and went in.

The empty room was an empty room no longer. It was a sculptor's studio and a lady's boudoir in one. There were flowers in the windows, engravings on the walls, warm rugs on the floor; in the windows, engravings on the walls, warm rugs on the floor; in one corner a stove, a piano, and a writing table; yonder a couch for rest—an easel for work—casts to draw from—books for study.

"Well, my child—well, dear Fraülein," said Frau Kreutzmann, delightedly.

"What say you to the Herr Baron's Christmas present? What do you think of your Blue Closet?"

(To be continued.)

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

DAVID AINSWORTH, Esq., M.P. for West Cumberland (Liberal), is the eldest son of Mr. T. Ainsworth, of the Flosh, near Whitehaven. He was born in 1842, and married in 1874. He is a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Lancashire, and a Major and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of Royal Lancashire Militia.

WILLIAM BIDDELL, Esq., M.P. for West Suffolk (Liberal-Conservative), was born in 1825, educated at a small school at Grundisburgh, Suffolk, and is in business as a land agent and farmer. He was formerly Chairman of the West Suffolk Chamber of Agriculture, and Vice-Chairman of various Farmers' clubs in the Eastern Counties. He was returned as a tenant-farmer's candidate Eastern Counties. He was returned as a tenant-farmer's candidate,

and is strongly opposed to the Ballot.

SIR ANDREW FAIRBAIRN, Bart., M.P. for the Eastern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, is the only son of the late Baronet, Sir Peter Fairbairn. He was born in 1828, educated at Geneva, Glasgow, and Cambridge, and called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1822. After practicing for some time he relinquished Temple in 1852. After practising for some time, he relinquished the profession, and is now the head of a firm of machinists and ironfounders at Leeds, of which borough he was Mayor from 1866 to 1868. He was Chairman of the Leeds School Board from 1870 to 1878, and has held Commissions in the West Yorkshire Volunteers and the Yorkshire Militia.

PROFESSOR MERVIN HERBERT NEVIL STORY-MASKELYNE, M.P. for Cricklade (Liberal), was born in 1823, and educated at Oxford, where he is a Professor of Mineralogy and an Honorary Fellow of his College (Wadham). He is a magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Brecknock, and was for some time Keeper of the Mineral Department of the British Museum.

JOHN M. HERON MAXWELL, Esq., M.P. for Kirkcudbrightshire (Liberal), was born in 1836, educated at Harrow, and held a commission in the 1st Regiment of Foot from 1855 to 1868, when he retired. He is a recognition and Department for Wishard retired. He is a magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Kirkcud-bright and Wigtownshire.

M P. for Lincoln (Liberal) JOHN HINDE PALMER, Esq., Q.C. was born in 1808, and called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1832. He became a Q.C. in 1859, and is a Bencher and Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn. He is the author of "The Church and the Education Question" and "County Reform." He sat for Lincoln in the Parliament of 1868-74, but was defeated after the Dissolution.

CHARLES RUSSELI, Esq., Q.C., M.P. for Dundalk (Liberal) was born in 1833, and educated at Castleknock College, and Trinity College, Dublin. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's-Inn in 1859, made a Queen's Counsel in 1872, is Leader of the Northern Circuit, and has also an extensive practice in the London Law Courts. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Dundalk at the General Elec-

JOHN FRANCIS SMITHWICK, Esq., M.P. for the city of Kilkenny, was born in 1844, and educated at Kilkenny, of which city he is a magistrate, and has been High Sheriff. He is an ardent supporter of Home Rule and Fixity of Tenure.

Our portraits are from photographs. Mr. Russell by the London

Stereoscopic Company, 54, Cheapside; Mr. Ainsworth by A. Bassano, 72, Piccadilly, W.; Professor Maskelyne by A. J. Melhuish, 12, York Place, Portman Square, W.; Mr. Hinde-Palmer by L. Caldesi, 13, Pall Mall East, S. W.; Mr. Biddell by J. W. Clark, 7, Abbey Hill, Bury St. Edmunds; Sir A. Fairbairn by C. H. Braithwaite, 75A, Briggate, Leeds; Mr. Heron-Maxwell by Jabez Hughes, Regina House, Ryde, Isle of Wight; and Mr. Smithwick by Chancellor. 55. Lower Sackville Street. Dublin. Smithwick by Chancellor, 55, Lower Sackville Street, Dublin.

#### FARMING IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY

THESE sketches illustrate work on one of the large wheat farms in the Red River Valley—the western boundary of Northern Minnesota. They show the several operations of "Breaking"—that is, turning the sod of the virgin prairie—"Ploughing," for seeding, "Reaping," and storing the grain in the Elevator or Grain Warehouse. The "sulky" ploughs are drawn by three or four horses or mules, and either are driven by a man or boy. They are driven in echelon, each division, consisting of about fifteen ploughs, being under the supervision of a mounted superintendent. The prairie in this part of the country being level, the ploughs, as they move along mile after mile, leave a broad band of rich black loam to mark their progress. The same arrangement of labour is adopted for the cross-ploughing and reaping. THESE sketches illustrate work on one of the large wheat farms cross-ploughing and reaping. The reaping is done by self-binders drawn by four horses, and driven by one man seated on the reaper, who in this way can reap about twelve acres a day, the self-binder who in this way can reap about twelve acres a day, the self-binder cutting, binding, and laying the grain ready for the stockers. It is then carried off in waggons, threshed in the field, and the grain taken to the "Elevator." On small farms the same labour-saving machinery is much in use, and elevators as well as grain buyers are found at the principal stations of the St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway, traversing this fertile valley, which has come to be regarded as the future wheat-field of America. This is the country and these the farms recently visited by Mr. Clare Sewell Read, M.P., and Mr. Albert Pell, M.P., Royal Commissioners, in their tour through Minnesota. their tour through Minnesota.



MESSRS. STANLEY LUCAS, WEBER, AND Co.—The quaint old-fashioned poetry of Sir John Suckling (1613), "I Prithee Give Me Back my Heart," has been set to music more than once before Maude V. White took it in hand; her composition is good, but somewhat too elaborate for the simple theme.—Two very creditable songs, music by H. Simms, are "Stars are with the Voyager," words by Thomas Hood, and "I Think of Thee," words by T. K. Ifarvey; both are of medium compass, to the latter there is a pleasing and not difficult accompaniment for the violin or violoncello. pleasing and not difficult accompaniment for the violin or violoncello.

—Two Englishmen have combined to write a very pretty French sarabande, "Le Navire," paroles de A. C. Swinburne (Chastelard), musique de Lionel S. Benson; the compass is moderate, within musique de Lionel S. Benson; the compass is moderate, within the middle octave.—Two songs for a picnic or garden party, the one sentimental the other piquant, for which Louis Engel has composed the appropriate music, are: the one, "A Face in the Crowd," the words on a well-worn theme, by Mrs. Panton, the other, "Now was I Wrong?" written by Charles Rowe.—An ultra-sentimental song for the like occasions is "Only You and I," a tenor song, by Frank Desprez.—A bright little "Barcarole" for the pianoforte, by Heinrich Mueller, is well worth the trouble of learning by heart.—The most attractive part of the "Lorna Doone Valse," by Meredith Ball, is the frontispiece; the music is smoothly written but lacks Ball, is the frontispiece; the music is smoothly written but lacks

melody.

MESSRS. NOVELLO, EWER, AND Co.—Nos. 96 and 98 o. "Novello's Collection of Trios and Quartets for Female Voices" are "Morning Thoughts," written and composed by James Montgomery and Henry Smart, and "Hark! The Village Bells," the poetry by Walter Phillips, the music by James Shaw; both are bright and cheerful, specially suited for school part-singing.—One of the greatest difficulties experienced by small choral societies, especially in country towns and villages, is to provide a good accompaniment for oratorios, masses, and cantatas. The above-named firm has met this difficulty with its usual promptitude and ability. We have before us Mendelssohn's "Elijah," the accompaniments arranged from the full score for the harmonium and pianoforte, by Ebenezer Prout, so ably as to supply the absent orchestra, especially Ebenezer Prout, so ably as to supply the absent orchestra, especially in a small concert-room or hall. Should this volume meet with the success it thoroughly merits, without doubt other celebrated works will quickly follow, and prove a great help to timid players and singers.—"A Fourth Set of Sixty Voluntaries," arranged for the harmonium by J. W. Elliott, are as well chosen and varied as their three predecessors; most of the well-known and popular composers three predecessors; most of the well-known and popular composets of sacred music for the organ are here represented; in fact the entire series forms a useful addition to the musical library.—Another series of works which promises to be very excellent is "Novello, Ewer, and Co.'s Pianoforte Albums." No. I contains twenty well-selected extracts from the best known and most popular of Bach's works, including five from the "Suites Anglaises," three from "Petits Preludes," and the Scherzo in A minor from "Partita III.," together with other favourite morceaux.

together with other favourite morreaux.

Messrs. Metzler and Co.—From grave to gay are two clever songs, music by Alfred Cellier, "O Love that's True," is a sad but pleasing poem, by Louisa Gray, telling the old story of gold versus love.—"The King's Jester" is a rollicking song, words by E. Oxenford, sure to make a hit at a penny reading or a ballad concert.—A graceful little love poem by the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," entitled "Jessie," has been charmingly set to music for a tenor, by Frederic H. Cowen.—The title of "The Little Spanish Man," a humorous ballad, written and composed by Frank Desprez, exactly describes this song, which is a trifle superior to the average of comic music, and will raise a genuine laugh from a not over-fastidious audience.—Refined and graceful, "Nydia, the Blind Flower Girl," a pianoforte piece, by H. W. Goodban, will never fail to please when played with taste and feeling.

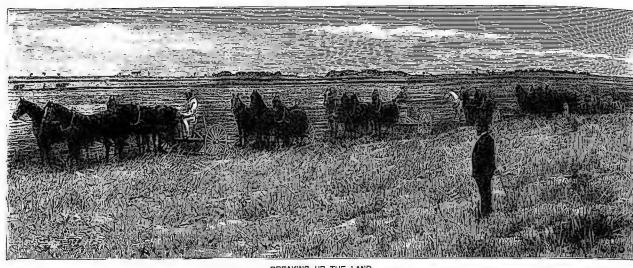
Messrs. W. Marshall and Co.—A vocal duet for mezzo

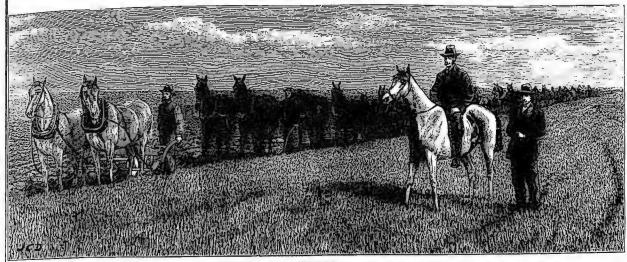
Messrs, W. Marshall and Co.—A vocal duet for mezzo soprano and contraito, marked by simplicity and refinement, is "I Met Her in the Sweet May Morn," both words, by C. Kidd, and music, by R. S. Francis, are charming, and will find an equally ready welcome in the schoolroom and drawing-room. By the same composer are two very pleasing pianoforte pieces, the one "Autumn Violets," is a brief audante cantabile, the other, "Summerland,"

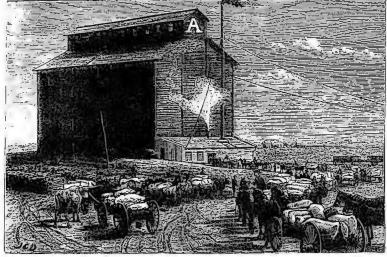
is adapted from an old French air.

adapted from an old French air.

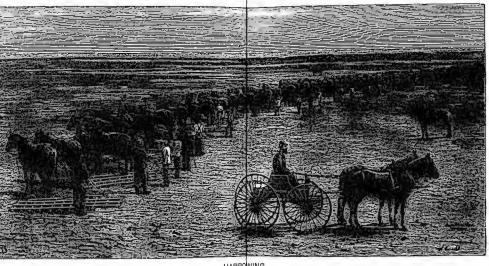
MISCELLANEOUS.—The right song for a pleasant gathering in a country house is "There's Music in the Gallery," the racy words of which are by Whyte-Melville, the music by Eletta Grant; the compass is from C below the lines to D on the fourth line (Messrs. Moutrie and Co.).—Amateurs who carefully study "The Flute Player's Journal," and diligently follow the series as the numbers of the property of the series as the numbers of the property of the series as the numbers. Player's Journal," and diligently follow the series as the numbers appear, will soon be very fair executants on this much abused and too often "played a little" instrument. No. 27, Vol. III., is a cantabile and allegretto by J. W. Harmston; No. 33, Vol. III., is the flute-player's pièce de resistance, "Jenny Jones," arranged by J. H. Young. As it seems to be compulsory upon all flautists to play this melody sooner or later in their career, they cannot do better than study this arrangement (Messrs. Rudall, Carte, and Co.).

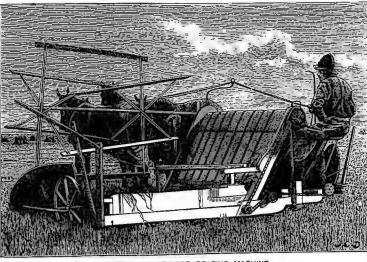


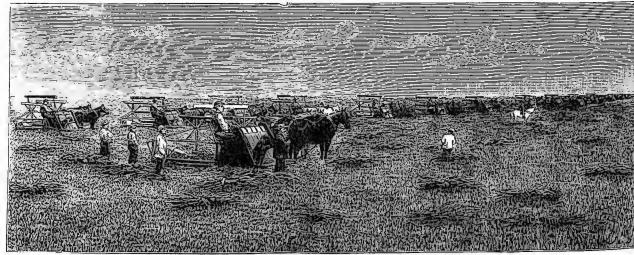




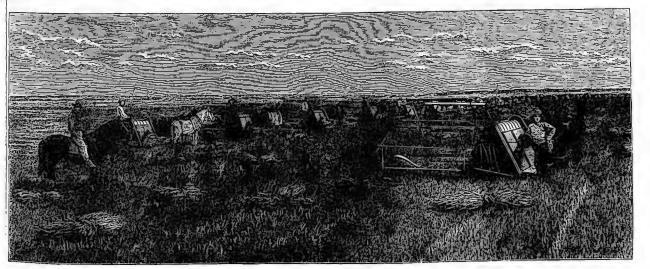
A GRAIN ELEVATOR







HARVESTING



REAPING AND BINDING



A BLOW was struck at the recently prevailing rage for glaring colours and mixtures at Goodwood, where the autumn fashions for Englishwomen are usually fixed; a prevalence of cool colours and elegant simplicity was remarkable. Our acknowledged leader of fashion, the Princess of Wales, wore on the opening day a plain blue costume, trimmed sparingly with white lace, and her example was followed by the visitors in general; delicate fawn colour, pearl grey, pink of the palest tint, and starch blue were quite a relief after the vivid reds and yellows of the past London season.

Of course there were some startling toilettes to be seen, but they only served as contrasts and even foils to the quieter and more refined costumes.

Of course there were some startling toilettes to be seen, but they only served as contrasts and even foils to the quieter and more refined costumes.

The garden parties and other out-door amusements will now be transferred from the London suburbs to the country and sea coast. The costumes to be worn on these occasions are somewhat different. For a garden party the following toilettes are appropriate: A combination of pale pink batiste, trimmed with Valenciennes lace, made thus—on the petiticoat a dozen or more flounces, edged with lace; over this a scarf tunic divided on the cross by Valenciennes insertion; at the back the drapery is finished off with a cascade of batiste and lace, fastened very low down with a pink satin bow. Bodice, plain at the back, and gathered in the front; a narrow pink satin band fastened with an antique buckle; the only trimming a lace jabot from the throat to the waist, elbow sleeves formed of bands of batiste and lace insertion, lace mittens. Leghorn hat, with pink satin strings tied at the back, ornamented with a bunch of moss roses—real, if possible; if not, artificial. This costume looks well in lemon colour, with white or black lace, with Marshal Niel or Duke of Edinburgh roses. We must not omit to mention the most important and extravagant part of this otherwise moderate toilette, namely, the parasol, which is of point d'ésprit, lined with pink Indian foulard, bordered with a ruching, a pink satin bow at the top, ivory handle with a swan's head. The ornaments were very quaint. Kittens, in gold, playing with pearl balls, formed the earrings and head of a pin which fastened a bouquet of roses at the earrings and head of a pin which fastened a bouquet of roses at the top, ivory handle with a swan's head. The ornaments were very quaint. Kittens, in gold, playing with pearl balls, formed the earrings and head of a pin which fastened a bouquet of materials.

Foremost among the flowers of this month which will last without fading for a day and a night, especially if the stalks be wrapp

and front of the casaguin. A Leghorn poke bonnet lined with pink silk, with bows of blue velvet at the side, and a bouquet of full blown roses, the parasol was made of three colours to match. This was certainly as pretty a dress as I have seen this season.

Our contemporary, the Revue de la Mode, always has something pretty and tempting in the course of the month. This time it is a walking dress of black and red satin, which is suitable for a picnic or a stroll on the pier of a fashionable watering-place. The skirt is made to touch the ground. The front is composed of flounces and puffings; at either side are small shells of black lined with red, a pleated frill of red surah round the bottom of the skirt. Habit bodice open en caur, with wide draped revers of red, elbow sleeves with red square cuffs; at the back of the jacket are ends lined with red and draped. The open corsage is filled up with a double pleating of cream lace and a bouquet of red and yellow roses. Eight-button gants de Suède. Black straw bonnet, trimmed with red and bordered with gold lace.

At the French watering-places at this season Scotch plaids always make their appearance in some form or another. A pretty and comfortable costume for a chilly day was recently sent to a French lady about to set out on a mountain tour; it was made of rifle-green cloth and Argyll plaid; a short round skirt, four inches from the ground, on which were two bands of very fine wool plaid; upper skirt bound with plaid, arranged in four bias pleats. Double-breasted jacket with two rows of smoked pearl buttons, with stags head in silver on them, waistcoat, collar, and cuffs of plaid; Tam o' Shanter hat of green cloth, with a plaid band. The boots were also sent from London, and were made to reach half-way up the leg, open in front from the instep to the ankle, and fastened with a combination of hooks and laces; the sole was made to extend all round beyond the upper leather, a capital arrangement for keeping the feet dry; the gloves were of self-coloured doeskin, larg headgear which bears this name is made like a round platter at the top, covered with silk or velvet drawn into a band, and void of all ornament; this hat must be worn at the back of the head, a most trying fashion, which makes the wearer either look very bold or somewhat idiotic.—The prettiest hats for seaside wear are the Leghorns, or light straw, trimmed with the old favourites—poppies, wheat, and wild flowers in general—fastened either with a white muslin boa, edged with lace, or a black velvet bow; these look light and cool, lined with pleated lace and trimmed with thick ruchings of lace and flowers, dotted in the centre and a bouquet on the left side. The soft toque hats, made of the same material as the dress, are always useful, more especially on a rainy day, but they, with the Pompadour pinafores, have become very common. A word as to mittens. They should not be worn at the seaside or in the sun, as the wearer will not only find her hands crimson, but even blistered and swollen after a few hours' exposure, that is to say, if blistered and swollen after a few hours' exposure, that is to say, if the skin be delicate; the coolest and best gloves are those which are soft and pliable, such as gants de Suède or taffetas. A fashionable mode of making linen and cambric dresses is with a honeycomb plastron, which is an old revival, and has been used for making smock-frocks for countrymen from time immemorial; it is particusmock-frocks for countrymen from time immemorial; it is particularly pretty for children's frocks, and, being efastic, is suitable toseaside scrambling. This style is sometimes called "guaging." If it be possible to make children look rather ugly, mothers do their best to effect that object, especially at the seaside, where the little girls of three to five years old are disfigured with monster cotton bonnets, in which they are literally smothered. Far be it from us to advocate exposing the little ones to the full glare of the sun; on the contrary, shade them with light wide-brimmed straw or muslin hats, but do not bury them from the air and light in what are facethe contrary, snaue them with light wide-brimmed straw or muslin hats, but do not bury them from the air and light in what are facetiously called "Grandmother's bonnets."

There is little or no change this year in yachting costumes. Jerseys, more or less conspicuous, are still in favour—red, white,

and blue are the colours for serges; the close-fitting toque stil holds its own for a windy day and real earnest sailing. Of course there are some eccentric costumes on the Pier at Ryde, for what an Old Salt would call "feather-bed sailors," but they remind us strongly of an opera-bouffe chorus.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES

EVER since the spectroscope became a necessary to the scientist means have been sought to cast the image of the spectrum upon a screen so that its wonders could be explained to and appreciated by a lecture audience. Take the telegone and microscope and many screen so that its wonders could be explained to and appreciated by a lecture audience. Like the telescope and microscope, and many other "scopes," the spectroscope is an instrument for the individual eye. Sir Isaac Newton cast the image of the solar spectrum upon the wall of his room by admitting a ray of sunlight through a hole in his window shutters. But this rough-and-ready plan is not available in a lecture-room, where something of a less fickle nature than sunshine must be found. The electric light has, therefore, been fixed upon as the nearest approach to the sun—its light being decomposed into coloured rays by means of a bottle prism filled with bisulphide of carbon. Other liquids have been suggested to fulfil this duty; but the bisulphide, perhaps on account of its cheapness, has held its ground. The great disadvantage in the use of a fluid prism hitherto has been represented by currents set up in them by the rays of light; causing bad definition, and unsatisfactory effects generally.

the rays of light; causing bad definition, and unsatisfactory effects generally.

These disadvantages have been lately obviated in a remarkable manner by the use of a new fluid suggested by Dr. Liveing of Cambridge, who some months ago brought the matter before the Royal Society. The suggestion was not, however, acted upon until Mr. Browning turned his attention to it, and after numerous experiments succeeded in producing a fluid prism of remarkable qualities. The liquid adopted is biniodide of mercury and potassium. It is exceedingly clear, brilliantly prismatic, and so dense that the glass stopper of a bottle will float on its surface as a cork floats upon water. It seems to be quite unalterable, has no tendency to crystallise, and gives enormous dispersive power in the red end of the spectrum, but exercises a selective absorption of the blue rays, which last seems to be its sole disadvantage. Spectroscope workers will learn with surprise that a biniodide prism of 60° will divide the D lines as widely as three prisms of dense flint glass. The cost of the latter arrangement is about four times that of the former, so that the new medium has another advantage in comparative cheapness. It bids fair to mark a forward step in the history of the spectroscope. We do not know whether any impartial sceptic was invited to join the Commission lately appointed by the Archbishop of Tuam to inquire into the alleged apparitions upon the walls of Knock Chapel, but if so he might have pointed out to his colleagues the following paragraph, which occurs in Dr. Phipson's book on Phosphorescence:—"Walls that have been painted or whitewashed with lime are apt to become luminous at night after they have received the action of the sun's rays in the daytime. Whitewashed

Phosphorescence:—"Walls that have been painted or whitewashed with lime are apt to become luminous at night after they have received the action of the sun's rays in the daytime. Whitewashed houses are, on account of their phosphorescent quality, visible at a great distance on the darkest nights." If the walls of the edifice at Knock are from the lime contained in the stucco or mortar subject to this phenomenon, and show patches of luminosity, it can easily be understood how active imaginations could give them form and substance. It would be rather rough on the good people of the village if the sudden notoriety of their chapel was proved to be due to an accidental infringement of the patent relating to Balmain's luminous paint!

luminous paint!

The rescue of persons from houses on fire is a duty which unfortunately our firemen are so often called upon to perform that it is no matter for wonder that many contrivances have been tried to enable them to enter a suffocating atmosphere with impunity. One of the most common forms is a kind of smoke-jacket of cowhide to cover the head and body, which is furnished with breathable air forms a type attached to a purpose a convenient distance. This is from a tube attached to a pump at a convenient distance. This is, as will be seen, merely a modification of the common form of diving-dress. Professor Tyndall some years back improved upon this plan by the invention of a respirator so contrived that it filtered diving-dress. Professor Tyndall some years back improved upon this plan by the invention of a respirator so contrived that it filtered the smoke from its suffocating elements, and delivered to the wearer air of comparative purity. The filter took the form of a complete mask for the face, and was charged with layers of different materials, such as cotton wool, fragments of charcoal, lime, &c., through which the smoke-laden air was bound to pass before reaching the breathing organs. This apparatus was the most efficient and simple of all invented up to recent times. Mr. II. A. Fleuss has, however, just patented an apparatus which is likely to supersede all others for this special purpose, and which has the advantage of being applicable for the exploration of mines and other places where the air is altogether irrespirable and unfilterable. The diving process of Mr. Fleuss has been so fully described in a former article that we need not further dwell upon it than to remind our readers that the air which he breathes is filtered through caustic soda to rob it of the carbonic acid given off by the lungs, and that before being re-inhaled the oxygen absorbed by the body is replaced from a reserve store of that gas sufficiently compressed in bulk to last for several hours. We shall now see how he adapts the same principle to his smoke-breathing apparatus.

The contrivance chiefly consists of a knapsack, which, with its belongings in the shape of a mask for the face and connecting tubes, can be easily fixed and adjusted by the wearer himself in less than one minute; its weight being several pounds less than that which a soldier carries on his back whilst on the march. Below the knapsack and attached to it is a copper cylinder charged with compressed oxygen. The working of the apparatus can be explained by reference to the cuts.

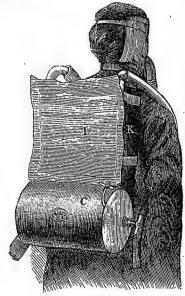


Fig. 1.

K (Fig. 1) is the knapsack containing a filter system to be presently described, c the oxygen cylinder, I an indiarubber bag-

not unlike the well-known air cushion used by railway travellers. A skeleton view of the ebonite case contained in the knapsack is shown in Fig. 2. The four compartments in this case are filled with spongy indiarubber, charged with caustic soda. The exhaled air, vitiated by carbonic acid, passes through these compartments in the direction shown by the arrows, and emerges purified and again fit for respiration after it has been supplied with oxygen sufficient to replace that absorbed by the blood in the act of breathing. It will

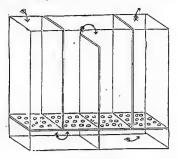
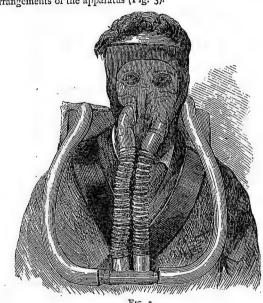


FIG. 2.

be observed that the filter box has a false bottom perforated with holes, so that the moisture condensed from the breath may collect below it, and not clog the apparatus. The function of the indiarubber bag on the back of the knapsack is to serve as a reservoir for the circulating air. It will be seen that a small pipe leads to it from the oxygen cylinder—the tap regulating the supply of gas being within easy reach of the hand. Without this bag the breathing would be somewhat laboured, owing to the resistance offered to the progress of, the air through the compartments of the filter. As it is, this bag serves both as a reservoir and mixer, and it rises and falls with every breath. We may now turn to the front arrangements of the apparatus (Fig. 3). arrangements of the apparatus (Fig. 3).



F1G 3.

We occasionally read of ladies who are so gifted by Nature that, dress how they may, they are sure to look pretty. We are afraid that the head-gear belonging to the smoke-breathing apparatus would be rather trying to Venus herself. But in this case we must not judge by appearances. The mask covering the face is made of pliant indiarubber, and is fastened round the head by two straps, the eyeholes being covered with glass. The two tubes proceeding from the checks are, from their construction, so elastic, that the head can be moved freely. Although they apparently become united at the horizontal pipe near the waist, they are in reality perfectly separate channels, one being the inhaling tube, and the other the exhaling tube, both being carried to the filter behind. The inhaling tube has also a connection with the bag reservoir. Each tube is furnished with a valve, so that their different functions are preserved, the valves opening and closing automatically by the We occasionally read of ladies who are so gifted by Nature that, ress how they may, they are sure to look pretty. We are afraid are preserved, the valves opening and closing automatically by the

are preserved, the valves opening and crossing arrangement of the breath.

The apparatus is so new, that possibly one or two slight modifications may in future be adopted, more especially in the front arrangement of piping, which might with advantage be simplified. We understand that Dr. Richardson intends to supplement his former paper on Mr. Fleuss's diving system by another lecture before the Society of Arts upon this fresh application of the principles involved.

T. C. H.



"Forestalled; or, The Life-Quest," by M. Betham Edwards (2 vols., Hurst and Blackett).—The existence of Mr. Wilkie Collins' "Moonstone" is a sufficient bar to any claim for originality of plot on the part of the authoress of "Forestalled." The very title is suggestive, in so far as both stories turn upon the physiological assumption that the same act of somnambulism will be repeated by the same person whenever he is influenced by the same set of mental and bodily conditions. But it by no means follows that the same interest will necessarily attach to the same plot, however nearly similarity of circumstance may be observed. Miss Betham Edwards has committed the cardinal error of making her characters and circumstantial details as improbable as the nature of Betham Edwards has committee the Cathala tell of many first characters and circumstantial details as improbable as the nature of her mystery—for the more unlikely is the main motive of a story, the more care will a good artist take to be strictly and severely probable in points of detail, unless, indeed, he be professedly probable in points of detail, unless, indeed, he be professedly trained. probable in points of detail, unless, indeed, he be professedly writing a romance or a fairy tale. It is an exaggeratedly strained coincidence, for example, that Norland should, while sleeping, have placed the notes of his great scientific discovery among his assistant's papers exactly when the latter had made the same discovery independently. Of course the situation is necessary for the development of the story, but then, to ensure interest, greater improbabilities should spring from less, not less from greater. Again, a man like Norland, accustomed to deal with proofs and reasons, would not, without some real evidence, leap to the conclusion that the wife whom he had loved and trusted had been betraying his secret for the sake of a lover, and, without even hearing a word of the wife whom he had loved and trusted had been betraying his secret for the sake of a lover, and, without even hearing a word of defence or explanation, turn her out of doors. Perhaps it is hardly worth noting that nobody ever yet became a celebrated musician on the strength of a first work, and that a quartette for strings; but even this is a straw that does as well as any other to show the nature of the wind that fills the sails of "Forestalled." The novel is a mass of crude improbabilities of character and incident, so is a mass of crude improbabilities of character and incident, so managed as to make up an absolutely impossible whole. For the

rest, "Forestalled" is of at least average merit. But it is without distinctive excellence, while the physiological novel has been by this time written so often and so ably that nothing short of exceptional skill, study, and originality can henceforth justify its repetition. "A Son of Mars," by Major Arthur Griffiths (2 vols., Remington and Co.).—This is a lively story of regimental life at home and abroad, in peace and in war. The author does not need the title of his military rank to prove his intimate knowledge of his subject in all its details and in most of its bearings, and he writes vividly of his military rank to prove his intimate knowledge of his subject in all its details and in most of its bearings, and he writes vividly and picturesquely whenever he stations us with the Duke's Own Fusiliers at Triggertown, or carries us to serve with the same crack corps "on the Rock," or in the Ashantee War. Very few civilians will follow to its end the rise of Herbert Farrington from the rank of full private to that of officer and baronet without feeling that they have a great deal more of a soldier's life as it is than before of full private to that of officer and baronet without feeling that they know a great deal more of a soldier's life as it is than before beginning the story. Of course the end of the private as a baronet implies a plot of some complication, and in this respect Major Griffiths is hardly to be congratulated on his manner of using the good old topic of a long-lost and persecuted heir. The terrible name of Tichborne comes too readily to his pen by way of the precedent of which he seems to feel himself constantly in need—and for that matter, a most unlikel; family romance, of no inherent precedent of which he seems to feel himself constantly in need—and, for that matter, a most unlikel; family romance, of no inherent interest whatever, does not march well with a tale, whereof the value depends upon realism alone. The wicked usurper, the half-crazy grandmother, and the conventional heroine are unwelcome intruders into the atmosphere of the camp and the barrack-room. But the reader will not mind the shadows much, for the sake of the

intruders into the atmosphere of the camp and the barrack-room. But the reader will not mind the shadows much, for the sake of the very substantial realities.

"Strangers Yet: A Story," by Sarah Doudney (I vol.: W. Isbister).—The heroine of "Strangers Yet" is a young wife who does not know her husband's love for her well enough to trust him with a secret that she fears his learning, lest his discovery of her original concealment should estrange him from her. The secret is innocent enough, being nothing more than the fact that her father was a small draper, while her husband is of high birth and good position. But as the latter was—as she well knew from the outset—a man of ideally noble nature, the much ado through which Miss Doudney makes her pass appears to be about very little, if not absolutely about nothing. Moreover, she is so unlucky as to forfeit the last scrap of sympathy open to her from any reader with a grain of common sense by telling her secret at last only to escape from a vagabond brother, who tried to make it an engine for the extortion of black mail. In many important respects, however, the story, if somewhat ill-conceived, is excellently executed. The construction is, on the whole, so good—passing over all immaterial episodes—as to reach the point where art conceals itself, and to escape the notice of all but critical eyes. The unexpected appointment of the husband, Mr. Charter, to a canonry in the Cathedral of the very city in which his wife's family are living is a strong incident, brought out with an easy simplicity which turns it from a forced coincidence into a natural example of the Nemesis which ment of the husband, Mr. Charter, to a canonry in the Cathedral of the very city in which his wife's family are living is a strong incident, brought out with an easy simplicity which turns it from a forced coincidence into a natural example of the Nemesis which so notoriously brings secrets to light when they seem most secure. Every detail is carefully prepared and arranged. Considerable power of pathos, also, is shown in the relations between Mrs. Charter and the father and mother, who keep her secret purely and simply out of love and pity for her, and who gradually come to look upon life as something they cannot hope to understand. Very probably the merits of "Strangers Yet," both in construction and in portraiture, lie altogether too much below the surface. It is wonderfully free from positive faults, and may be warmly recommended to young readers whose tastes are pure and wholesome. It is likely to give considerable interest and a great deal of quiet pleasure.

"Matrimonial Bonds: a Novel," by Florian (3 vols.: J. and R. Maxwell).—"Florian's "object in writing a novelseemsto be to obtain for women greater facilities for obtaining divorce than the law allows them. Without any reference to its purpose, "Matrimonial Bonds" is more foolish, dull, and ignorant even than the average novel that takes the law of marriage for its theme. Even such readers as may be attracted by its particularly stupid title will find themselves sadly disappointed. No doubt it is open to "Florian" to urge that a dull and disagreeable style is appropriate to the treatment of dull people and disagreeable things. The argument is so right that all novelists who do not aim at dulness, and who prefer a little sound sense to a great deal of sickly sentiment, have left the field open to "Florian" without a rival. To analyse plot or characters would be waste of space and labour; but so much as we have said is due to any reader who might be eccentric enough to find a

would be waste of space and labour; but so much as we have said is due to any reader who might be eccentric enough to find a pleasant foretaste in the title. Such readers, of all things, dislike what they call "dulness," and "Florian's" three volumes are dull in every sense of the word.

### AN AUSTRALIAN BUCKJUMPER

THE systematic determined buckjumper is fortunately a rare animal, even in Australia, and it is likewise a fact that as the "blue blood" of the English strains is comminded with the Australian blood" of the English strains is commingled with the Australian breeds the vice appears to be gradually in course of eradication.

In the course of my lifetime I have sought out and ridden many notorious bucking many but no effect in rigidate is morelled as missilled.

notorious buckjumpers, but no after incident is recalled so vividly, by its exciting uncertainty, as my first attempt in that direction.

I was a "new chum" in Queensland, and the animal I essayed to

ride was a strikingly handsome brown pony, some 14 hands 2 inches high. His name was "Snake," and he bore a very evil reputation.

After a good deal of trouble in mounting, proceedings began by a jump forward of some yards, followed by a shock which, as the animal's forelegs touched the ground, sent an electric thrill up the small of my back. Then a sudden wheel round, bringing Mr. animal's forelegs touched the ground, sent an electric thrill up the small of my back. Then a sudden wheel round, bringing Mr. Snake's head where his tail was half a second before. However, as Nature had endowed me with a wiry though scraggy set of limbs and a good supply of wind, I resolved to go through the ordeal, all the more perhaps because there was a broad grin on the face of one of my friends who held open the gate of the stockyard as we shot through, and a ditto expression on that of another who leant, pipe in hand, with his back against the familiar old box tree.

As with tecth firm set, and shoulders well back, I held on like "grim death to a lee backstay," receiving shock after shock, I scenned to live a long long time in the few short minutes which were to decide if it was a fact that no Englishman (lately to hand) could ride a genuine Australian buckjumper.

ride a genuine Australian buckjumper.

Even now my muscles contract, and my teeth clench as I recall that first terrific struggle! The uncertainty and nervousness which bade me look for a soft spot to fall on, almost before I had started, followed by the ——well, nothing but an involuntary fixed started, followed by the — well, nothing but an involuntary fixed determination to stick to the saddle somehow. As jump succeeded jump my spirits rose, till presently I discovered that there was a chance of my keeping my seat, though first one and then the other of my stirrups rang against the ground, and the next instant were high in the air, as with a literal scream the Snake bounded from right to left, twisting and turning and trying every possible means to rid himself of the occupant of his back-premises.

How well I remember it all, and how at the last, with the sudden and exhilarating knowledge of my power. I drove the spurs into

and exhilarating knowledge of my power, I drove the spurs into Snake's sides, and gave him back with interest the lesson I had received. Gradually his exertions lessened, and ended with one or two tremendous bounds which knocked my hat clean off, and burst the steady less than the steady of the the stout leathern sureingle which as a precaution I had buckled tightly round the saddle. In a few short minutes the victory was won, and I walked home (albeit stiff and shaken) proudly conscious that in the matter of horsemanship I had upheld the credit of Old England!

England!

Snake and I became the best of friends, and we afterwards went through years of hard work together. My picture depicts the exciting nature of our first introduction to each other. R. W. STUART



YEARS ago, Lord Ebury pronounced our Church services too long; he and his sons found they couldn't stand them. Mr. Reynolds, priest-vicar and librarian of Exeter Cathedral, in the presace to his beautifully printed "Legenda Sanctorum, Vol. II. Part 3" (Elliot Stock), is of the same opinion. He would gratify "the craving for a shortened Lectionary," and would also have brief supplementary services suited to "those spiritual emotions which the long-winded periods of our nevertheless beautiful Collects repress." Whatever may be thought of this plan, there can be no question as to the value of his reprint of "the Common of Saints' Days," presented to the Cathedral by Bishop Grandisson, 1327, and one of the chief treasures of its library. The facsimile page, in colours and gold, makes us regret that the whole work could not be so reproduced; for Bishop Grandisson's connection with the ducal family of Burgundy, the great patrons of illuminating, gives special interest to his MS. The histories are, however, interesting in themselves. The martyrdom of St. Andrew, under Pro-consul Egeas, is well told. Indeed, the whole volume is a good sample of a class of book which is very rare in manuscript.

The Rev. Charles Bullock thinks that many congregations are in the condition of those early converts who "had not so much as heard whether there be any HolyGhost." Hence his title: "The Forgotten Truth, or Gospel of the Holy Ghost, with Selected Hymns of the Spirit" (Hand and Heart Office). That Miss Havergal, Spurgeon, Keble, Dean Stanley, and Robert II. of France, are all represented in his collection shows that he values a good hymn, no matter who wrote it. With one of his suggestions we heartily agree, viz., that "family prayer should always be accompanied with

represented in his collection shows that he values a good right, no matter who wrote it. With one of his suggestions we heartily agree, viz., that "family prayer should always be accompanied with family praise." Whether these hymns would do for general household use is another matter. Matthew Arnold's "Morality touched with emotion" is only another way of expressing that "Gospel of the Spirit" which we quite believe with Mr. Bullock is too much

the Spirit" which we quite believe with Mr. Bullock is too much lost sight of by all denominations.

That there is a deal to be seen in England which Englishmen never see is a truism; and Mr. E. Walford has done well in calling attention in his "Holidays in the Home Counties" (D. Bogue) to places like Brambletye House, Cheneys, and Halnaker, of which few suspect the existence. Beyond this our praise must not go; for even a magazine paper may rise above the guide-book level, and at Ely Mr. Walford rather falls below it. Hurried as he was to catch the train for his Cambridge college dinner, he might have found time to say a word about the finishing of the Octagon, and the grand function with which this triumph of Mr. Gambier Parry's decorative work was celebrated. It is the same at St. Alban's, where we cannot find a word about the quarrels between abbots and townsfolk, and the wild work which went on during Wat Tyler's rising; did Mr. Walford never read Mr. Froude's "History of a Monastery?" But meagreness is quite consistent with accuracy. Mr. Walford must have been anxious about a train, or a dinner, when he wrote: "Halnaker House was granted by Henry, together with the neighbouring Priory of Boxgrove, to Robert de Haia as a royal dowry," and then on the next page gave the totally different version, "The Priory" (just described as already existing) "was founded by the same Robert de Haia to whom Halnaker was granted." Both statements cannot be true. But what shall we say to the following? Mr. Walford, at Verulamium, has been rather needlessly asking whether Caius and Lucius, &c., inhabited certain red-brick hovels which intrude amidst the old grey walls; and then he adds, "Perhaps that archway in the long wall attracted the eyes of Julius Cresar in the same way that it now attracts the eyes of Mr. or Mrs. John Smith." We can scarcely believe our eyes; for Mr. "Perhaps that archway in the long wall attracted the eyes of Julius Cæsar in the same way that it now attracts the eyes of Mr. or Mrs. John Smith." We can scarcely believe our eyes; for Mr. Walford was a scholar of Balliol, and must once have known better than that. Julius Cæsar has described a British town, but archways in long walls formed no part of what he saw in those on which he based his description. We are sorry to dispraise a book which, well done, would have been valuable as well as interesting.

So great has been Dr. Percival's success as a head master, and so wide and deep his influence both with men and boys, that one perhaps looked for too much in a volume of sermons by him. Anyhow "Some Helps for School Life" (Rivingtons) do not differ greatly from school sermons by far less distinguished men. It is the man and his manner and his known character, which tell a vast deal more than what he says. Of course they are good, striking

is the man and his manner and his known character, which tell a vast deal more than what he says. Of course they are good, striking sermons, especially those on "My Father's Business," and "The Unaccomplished Work of Schools," which latter ought to force boys to think about the strange anomalies of so-called Christian society. "Progressive Morality" and "Christian Enlightenment" deal with Iael and the slaughter of Amalek on Capan Mozley's society. "Progressive Morality" and "Christian Enlightenment" deal with Jael and the slaughter of Amalek on Canon Mozley's method, a method which will never persuade a doubter, much less an Agnostic. Evolution in morals we can understand; but that imperfect morality should ever have been enjoined by special revelation we are not prepared to admit. We wish Dr. Percival had been a little more outspoken, instead of leading off into side issues such as the sympathy of many English people with Turks; or with the Southerners in the American war.

as the sympathy of many English people with Turks; or with the Southerners in the American war.

Not the great Italian frescoes only, but many quite modern pictures, notably Etty's, have suffered owing to the use of ill-chosen pigments or destructive "vehicles." Mr. W. J. Muckley, in "A llandbook for Painters and Art Students on the Character and Use of Colours" (Baillière and Co., King William Street), points out what colours are permanent and what fugitive, and what varnishes and other medium are harmful or the reverse. Mr. Poynter praises the work highly, and says Mr. Muckley's colours are just what he uses, and, though few, are sufficient for almost every purpose. Panel is much better to paint on than canvas; a Sir Joshua on panel ("Portrait of a Lady" in the Price-Owen collection at South Kensington) is as fresh as if just off the easel. English artists are too fond of "vehicles," dryers, and what Mr. Muckley calls "meguilps" (!); the French mostly eschew them altogether. We are sorry to hear that even the best colourmen, giving in to the ruling competition, aim at low price rather than first-rate quality. are sorry to hear that even the best colourmen, giving in to the ruling competition, aim at low price rather than first-rate quality. Mr. Muckley is quite right in warning beginners from rushing to oil, as if there was some virtue in the materials which could supersede elementary knowledge. The book is thoroughly practical, and Mr. Poynter's commendation is warrant for its correctness.

Is it easier to write a short story or a three-volume novel? The

story must have some amount of point, or else the writer will be at once found out, whereas in the dreary wastes of the second and third volume, all interest in the book being gone, the reader may conveniently forget what manner of work it is. Mr. Gibbon has tried both. "In Pastures Green, and Other Stories" (Chatto and Windus) is a collection of his little works—his operates, as The Times tried both. "In Pastures Green, and Other Stories" (Chatto and Windus) is a collection of his little works—his opuscules, as The Times once called Thackeray's "Kickleburys." Some of the stories are pretty; three are Scotch—one, "A paction wi' the deil," not Scotch only but Highland. "Daft Tam" is well told, and worth telling. "Cancelled Engagements" seems to us weak.

Keeping bees is a very different process from what it was when

poets sang of the neat row of hives beside the thatched cottage in imitation of which they too were thatched. There is as much difference between this and bee-keeping on the "Nadir" or "Collateral" or "Stewarton" principle" as between "shearing" the corn with a sickle, and cutting it with the newest reaping machine. Bees, carefully kept, pay well; so no wonder "The Beekeepers' Manual" (Groombridge and Son) should have reached its seventh edition. It was originally published by the late well-known Henry Taylor. Mr. Alfred Watts, assistant editor of Neighbour's "Apiary," has brought the work up to date. It goes fully into the subject, which

was originally published by the late well-known Henry Taylor. Mr. Alfred Watts, assistant editor of Neighbour's "Apiary," has brought the work up to date. It goes fully into the subject, which (as those who have tried know) is by no means so simple as outsiders imagine. Bees need care; you have not merely got to buy your swarm and your frame hive, and then leave them. We are glad Mr. Watts insists that killing the bees is needless; "to this the attention of the cottager might surely be directed." How it would horrify a Buddhist to see a whole nation destroyed for the sake of a few pounds of honey! The appendices are very interesting, especially the reprint of "Bees and their counterfeits." Indeed, as far as we can judge, the book is to be thoroughly recommended.

"Parnellism Unveiled," by P. II. Bagenal (Hodges, Foster, and Figgis, Dublin).—This pamphlet is well worth reading at the present juncture in Irish politics. Mr. Bagenal begins by a rapid sketch of the rise, progress, and apparent decline of Fenianism. We say, apparent, because he maintains that that once formidable organisation has revived under the auspices of the Land League, and that Mr. Parnell is in close alliance with the men, both in Ireland and America, who are most auxious to attain the objects aimed at in the Fenian creed. The so-called "National" journals are well known for the violence and disloyalty of their utterances, but these utterances are far eclipsed by those of the Irish World, a paper published in America, and largely circulated in Ireland, which, as the extracts given show, preaches the employment of physical force in the boldest and most barefaced manner. Mr. Bagenal denies that these doctrines are accepted by the bulk of the Irish people, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic; but he points out at the same time the danger of their influence on a credulous and excitable population. Her Majesty's present advisers have shown such ignorance and recklessness in their well-meant attempts to remedy Irish tion. Her Majesty's present advisers have shown such ignorance and recklessness in their well-meant attempts to remedy Irish grievances, that the perusal of this pamphlet may possibly teach them some wisdom and prudence.

### SARDINE FISHERY AT LE CROISIC

LEAVING Nantes, famous for its revoked Edict and infamous for the noyades, the Republican marriages of the brute Carrier, a short journey takes one to St. Nazaire, one of the great entrepôls of French colonial trade and the starting-point of lines of ocean steamers—a new town, with fine docks and dirty streets always filled with hustling crowds of bluff sea captains and sailors of every race and colour. race and colour.

race and colour.

Then comes the new village of Escoublac; two miles from the old one, now swallowed up by moving sands whose approach is not to be stopped even by a river which they are now remorselessly crossing to get at their prey. Afterwards the rocks of Pouliguen (Welsh Pwl-gwen)—the white bay—the scene of the powerful but very unpleasant novel, "La Femme de Feu." Then,—

Past wild Batz whose Saxons grub The ground for crystals grown where ocean gluts Their promontory's breadth with salt,

and down a mile of sandy road among the salines, whence rises in the evening a faint sweet odour of violets, one finds one's self at Le Croisic, the last struggle of sand and rock against the masterful waves of the Atlantic.

masteriul waves of the Atlantic.

A few boats are here equipped for the tunny fishery, which is managed, not as in the Mediterranean with the harpoon, nor with a seine as on the coasts of Biscay, but with two exaggerated fishingrods; from each of which trails far astern a tallow candle as a bait, when the best gains along hefore a cause hart have

rods; from each of which trails far astern a tallow candle as a bait, when the boat spins along before a seven-knot breeze.

The main part of the population, however, lives by the sardines. When the tide begins to ebb, a hundred small luggers are to be seen casting off from their moorings in the long double harbour that stretches along the narrow spit of rock and sand, and then racing close-packed like a drove of sheep for the narrow and dangerous rock-strewn entrance of the Trait, as the channel—the only channel through reef after reef and bank after bank—is called. After a tide they are signalled coming back again by the anxious watchers from the Mont d'Esprit, and all the old women in Croisic collect on the landing slips and stairs of the harbour, while the younger ones, reinforced by a large contingent of their sisters from the Bourg de Batz, assemble in the factories, and seat themselves in rows on each side of long low tables. side of long low tables.

When the boats approach the landing slips, the sardines are handed into the loosely-made osier flat baskets which every old woman in Croisic carries at all times (indeed, they are accused of woman in Croisic carries at all times (indeed, they are accused of sleeping in them), and instantly washed by the sturdy matrons, who wade for that purpose, with well kilted coats, into water far above their knees; then handed ashore and sprinkled with layers of salt fresh from the snowy heaps that stand like an encampment of tentes d'abri beside the salt-pans of Guérande, and hurried off to the rows of expectant girls in the factory. They are cleaned and the heads cut off in an instant, and as fast as the boilers can be heated for them they are plunged into boiling oil, and then left to drain and for them they are plunged into boiling oil, and then left to drain and

for them they are plunged into boiling oil, and then left to drain and season for a while in shallow trays of wirework.

It is marvellous to see how the girls of Batz preserve their snowy caps in all their immaculate whiteness, and their curiously embroidered plastrons unflecked by flying scales or blood-drops; while the nimble fingers ply the knife so fast that the eye can scarcely follow it, and in chorus they sing curious old ballads with words and airs handed down from their Saxon ancestors; for these people of Batz are of very different blood from the marshmen of the villages around, and have lived for centuries beside their saltworks, neither marrying nor being given in marriage among saltworks, neither marrying nor being given in marriage among their neighbours.

their neighbours.

It is not very far from England to Nantes—many English tourists go there every season. If they have a couple of days to spare, let them run down to Le Croisic and eat fresh sardines, or smelts, small but exquisitely delicate, caught at the very housedoor, and served at table in great piles of crisp and curled-up little bodies. If there is a hot night they may see the waves beat upon the reels and sandbanks in showers and streams of golden and violet phosphorescence. Then they may visit Guérande, and see a town where phorescence. Then they may visit Guérande, and see a town where hardly a stone has been moved since its siege in the wars of the Breton Succession: or go a few miles further, and descend into a Breton Succession; or go a few miles further, and descend into a Carthaginian mine at Piriac; only if they wish to do these things, they had better do them at once, for the iron horse now runs through the sand-hills and salt-pans, and his breath will all too soon blast and wither away much that still remains of strange and picturesque in this sleepy corner of old Brittany.

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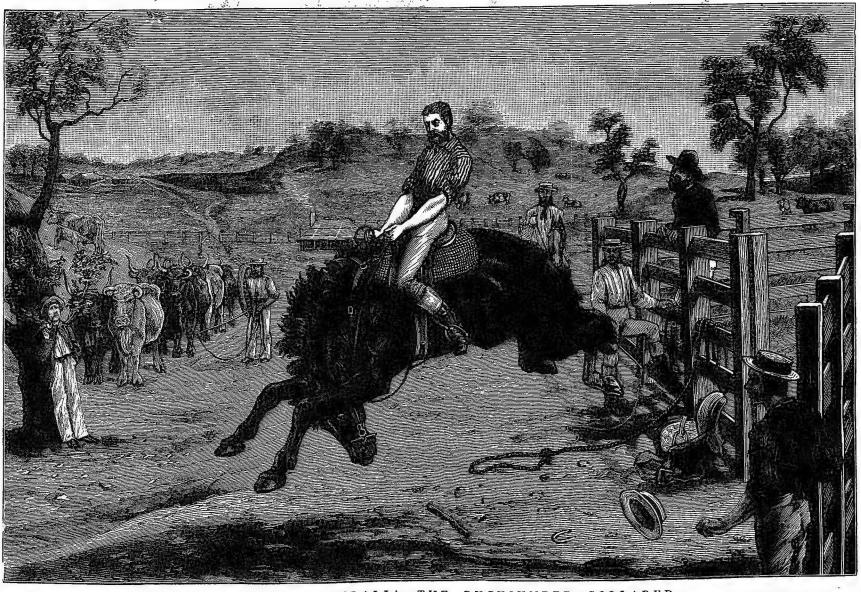


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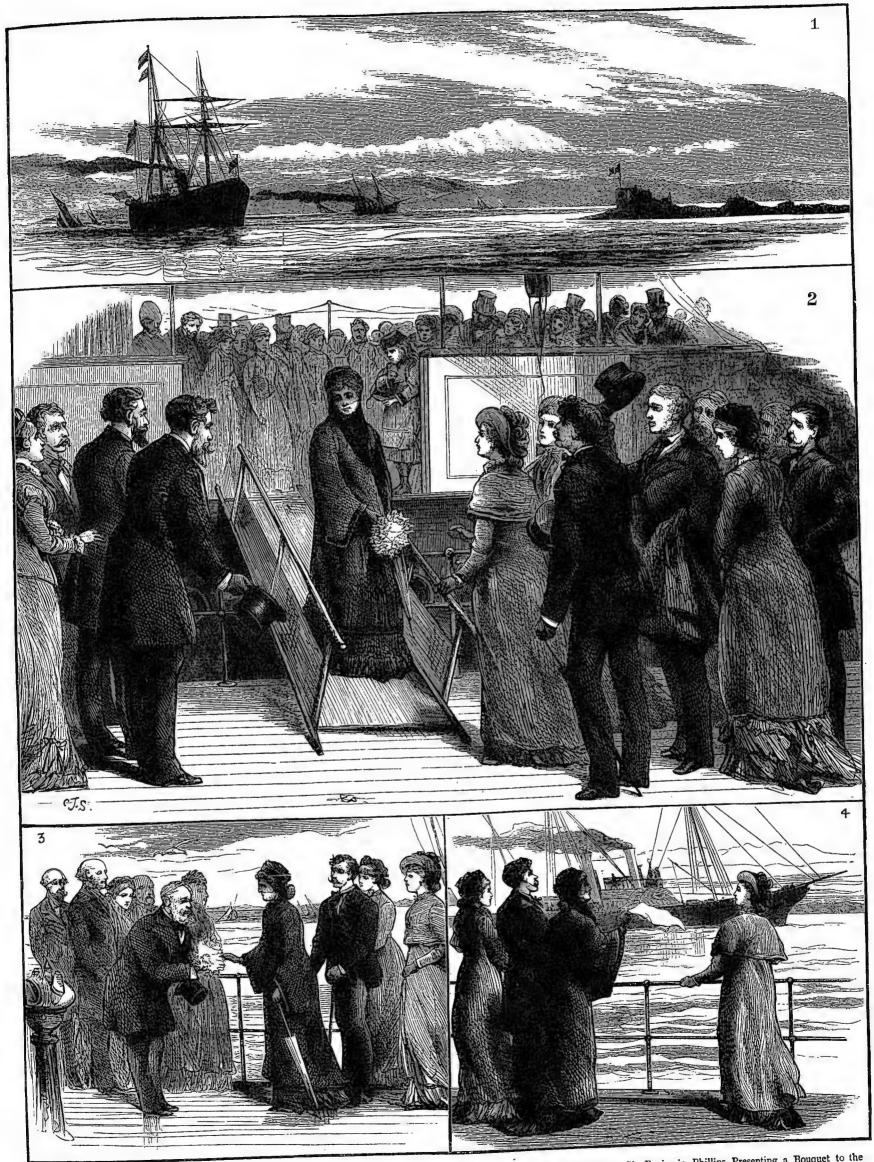


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imagine the shrewd low-bred cur of the streets, who would naturally be ever on the look-out for a way of acquiring regular rations, watching the regular sheep dog at his work, and turning it over in his intelligent head whether it would not be possible for him to do it as well, or nearly. Of course he could only prove his sagacity for the job by practising at it as a volunteer, hanging about the market. the job by practising at it as a volunteer, hanging about the market, and meekly making friends with dogs in office, who doubtless are as jealous and as prejudiced as their masters, patiently bearing kicks and blows, until at last it dawns on some individual of the order of the badge and stick that the creature may be worth his keep, and he takes him on trial. That is all the crop-eared one requires, and, possessing both the will and the ability, he is made for life—self-

LIFE-BELTS AND THE MERCHANT SERVICE.—A statement published by a firm of life-belt and buoy manufacturers illustrates the apathy displayed by the majority of the employers of sailors as

regards providing the men with a means by which to increase their chance of escape from the perils of the deep. It is asserted that repeated offers have been made to captains and others in the Port of London and other ports, to supply a sufficient number of life-belts of the most approved pattern for each ship, to provide a chest to keep them in, and to overhaul the stock periodically and make good all defects, for the small sum of one shilling each belt per annum. In nine cases in ten the proposition is declined. It is notorious that in the merchant service captains as well as mates are not favourably disposed towards encouraging this kind of life-saving notorious that in the merchant service captains as well as mates are not favourably disposed towards encouraging this kind of life-saving apparatus on board their ships. Strangely enough, or so at first sight it seems, the objection is found to prevail chiefly amongst the masters of coasting vessels, the unfortunate crews of which, next to fishermen, contribute more than any other seafaring class to swell the terrible total chronicled in the yearly returns. But it ceases to be strange when the fallacy that does duty as a "reason why" is made

known. The wrong-headed captains make no secret of the grounds of their opposition. What they selfishly urge is, that it is not good for a seaman to have constantly present in his thoughts that, in the event of the ship getting the worst of it in a gale, or what not, he has at his command a means of insuring his personal safety. Such a safeguard, the said captains would make out, tends to demoralise a safeguard, the said captains would make out, tends to demoralise a man, and make a milksop of him. What they desire is a set of sailors who are aware that their only chance of saving themselves is to keep the vessel afloat, and who, on that account, will strive to the last extreme in her behalf. There is, however, in such an argument a strong tincture of barbarity repugnant to humanity as mall as to reason. It might as wisely be urged that the best was well as to reason. It might as wisely be urged that the best way to provide against soldiers running away from the field of battle would be to tether them to stakes driven into the ground, or that the surest method of compelling artillerymen to stick to their guns is to chain them by the leg to the gun carriage.

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Speedy relief is given by the use of Phospho-Muriate
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WHITENS AND SOFFENS THE SKIN,
PREVENTS CHAPS, SOFTENS WATER,
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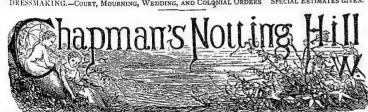
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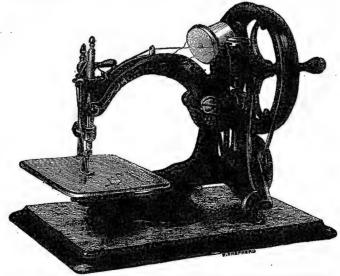
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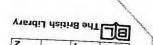
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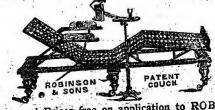
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